

REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

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MIAMI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

MIAMI, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

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DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE 2 SENATOR ALEX DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA 3 SENATOR DARYL L. JONES 4 SENATOR KENDRICK B. MEEK 5 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ 6 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER 7 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHN BALL 8 REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL 9 REPRESENTATIVE ANNIE BETANCOURT 10 REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIP J. BRUTUS 11 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNIE B. BYRD, JR 12 REPRESENTATIVE JOYCE CUSACK 13 REPRESENTATIVE RENE GARCIA 14 REPRESENTATIVE DAN GELBER 15 REPRESENTATIVE WILBERT HOLLOWAY 16 REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE KYLE 17 REPRESENTATIVE JERRY G. MELVIN 18 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN 19 REPRESENTATIVE MACRO RUBIO 20 REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY M. RYAN 21 REPRESENTATIVE JOHN P. SEILER 22 REPRESENTATIVE ELEANOR SOBEL 23 REPRESENTATIVE FEDERICA S. WILSON 24 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Chairman Webster. I'm 2 Johnny Byrd, State Representative from House District 62. 3 And I'm also the Chairman of the House of Representatives 4 Redistricting and Procedural Council. It's also my 5 pleasure to welcome you to this public hearing. It's one 6 of over 20 to be held throughout the State of Florida. 7 First I would like to explain the procedure or the way 8 that we will conduct ourselves throughout this public 9 hearing. This is a public hearing, the sole and only 10 purpose of this hearing is to hear from the public on 11 matters of redistricting. It is not a legislative 12 committee meeting and we will not be taking any type of 13 legislative action in this or any subsequent public 14 hearing, instead today this is the public's forum where we 15 will have the opportunity to receive citizen input about 16 your electoral districts. 17 It's not the time for legislative debate. All of the 18 Representatives and Senators will have numerous 19 opportunities in subsequent committee hearings and floor 20 debates to address all of the member's concerns or wishes. 21 Today, however, is for our constituents. We must not 22 diminish your voice by taking up your valuable time today 23 in debate. Following my remarks our legal counsel will 24 give a general overview of the legal considerations of 25 redistricting and then our staff will provide some specific DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS 2 CHAIRMAN BYRD: The meeting will come to order. Thank 3 you for coming today. At this time, ladies and gentlemen, 4 I would like to recognize Principal Samuel L. Johnson. 5 Principal Johnson, you are recognized to introduce the 6 Color Guard and to do the National Anthem. You are 7 recognized. 8 PRINCIPAL JOHNSON: Good afternoon. Thank you all for 9 coming. At this time we will have the Presentation of 10 Colors by the Miami Central Junior ROTC and the Pledge of 11 Allegiance immediately followed by the National Anthem. 12 (Performance by Miami Central High School.) 13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Good afternoon, welcome to the 14 public hearing. I'm Daniel Webster, Chairman of the Senate 15 Redistricting Committee. It's my pleasure to welcome you 16 this afternoon. Senators and Representatives are here to 17 listen to you, the residents in this area, and consider 18 your input in this very important process of redistricting. 19 Since these are joint meetings we have divided our 20 responsibilities throughout the many public hearings that 21 we will be holding around the state in the next several 22 weeks. It's my pleasure at this time to introduce 23 Representative Johnnie Byrd who is Chairman of the House 24 Procedural and Redistricting Council. Chairman Byrd will 25 preside over today's hearing. Chairman Byrd. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 information about the 2000 Census in this region and for 2 the entire state. The rest of the time today is reserved 3 for you, the citizens. 4 Every ten years after the completion of the National 5 Census, the Constitution requires that the Florida 6 Legislature redraw the boundaries of the districts of the 7 Florida House, the Florida Senate, and Florida's 8 Congressional Districts. The Legislature will take up this 9 task in the next legislative session beginning January the 10 22nd, 2002, and ending on March 22nd, 2002. The districts 11 we draw will first be used in the elections in the fall 12 of 2002. 13 Redistricting is a central element of our 14 representative democracy. We take this task on with 15 humility and due regard for the importance and the 16 difficulty of the job. We are committed that the process 17 will be fair, open and inclusive. These public hearings 18 represent a crucial first step in this process. We 19 appreciate that we are about doing the work of the people. 20 We want to hear from you and help you participate in a 21 meaningful way in the process. 22 To encourage public participation House Speaker Tom 23 Feeney and Senate President John McKay have scheduled these 24 public hearings throughout the state. All members of the 25 Legislature's Redistricting Committees, as well as the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 local delegation members, have been invited to these public 2 hearings. This hearings will also be taped so they can be 3 made available to all members of the Legislature. The 4 House and the Senate have designed web sites as a tool for 5 the public and will broadcast select hearings on Florida's 6 public television stations.</p> <p>7 The web addresses for the House and Senate legislative 8 redistricting are available at the sign-in table. A link 9 will also be available from the Florida legislative web 10 site. The redistricting plan for the State House and the 11 State Senate will be passed in the form of a joint 12 resolution which will not be subject to the Governor's 13 approval or veto, but will be subject to the review of the 14 Florida Supreme Court.</p> <p>15 The plan determining Congressional Districts will not 16 be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court, but will be 17 subject to the Governor's approval or veto. I encourage 18 everyone to carefully review the 2000 Census. It is the 19 essential building block on which Florida's redistricting 20 plans will be built. The United States Census web site is 21 also available at the sign-in table.</p> <p>22 We are here to listen and to consider your voice. We 23 encourage each member of the public to testify and to help 24 us craft your legislative districts. We also encourage 25 written submissions in addition to your public hearing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 comprehensive or complete review of the issues related to 2 the topic, but it is intended to give all of you an 3 introduction to the basic principles and constraints that 4 will guide the decision-making of our State Legislature as 5 it proceeds with this very important task.</p> <p>6 The task of reapportionment and redistricting is the 7 process of dividing residents of a jurisdiction, in this 8 case, the residents of the entire State of Florida, into 9 different electoral seats or districts. Reapportionment 10 and redistricting are constitutional requirements and both 11 the Florida Constitution and the United States Constitution 12 requires this process to commence every ten years after the 13 census.</p> <p>14 Because of Florida's population increase over the last 15 ten years Florida will have two additional members in the 16 United States Congress, a total of 25 seats. Therefore, 17 with regards to Congressional Districting, the State 18 Legislature will need to create 25 separate, contiguous 19 districts to cover the entire state, one for each of those 20 members of Congress.</p> <p>21 The Legislature will also need to divide the state 22 into 40 State Senate Districts and 120 State House of 23 Representative Districts. Although the Legislature may, if 24 they choose, reduce the number of State Senate and House 25 Districts to as low as 30 and 80, respectively.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 Everyone who wishes to speak must be sure to fill out a 2 speaker's card, like this one, everyone that wishes to 3 speak must fill out a speaker's card. That is the only way 4 we will know who wishes to speak, and after the hearing, 5 who actually did speak. These cards are available at the 6 sign-in table.</p> <p>7 In addition, because we want to hear from as many 8 people as possible, we must limit your comments to four 9 minutes. On behalf of House Speaker Tom Feeney, Senate 10 President John McKay and the members of the Florida 11 Legislature, I look forward to working with you on this 12 historic and important task.</p> <p>13 At this time I would like to recognize Attorney 14 Richard Perez. He is a member of the House legal team. 15 Attorney Perez will give a brief legal presentation. You 16 are recognized, Mr. Perez.</p> <p>17 MR. PEREZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, 18 again, my name is Richard A. Perez and I am counsel to the 19 Florida House of Representatives for reapportionment and 20 redistricting matters. I am here together with my 21 colleague Senator Jim Scott who is counsel to the Florida 22 Senate. I will be giving you a brief overview of the law 23 regarding reapportionment and redistricting for the benefit 24 of the members as well as the public.</p> <p>25 This presentation is by no means intended to be a</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 The Florida Constitution also requires that State 2 House and State Senate Districts be consecutively numbered 3 and, quote, either contiguous, overlapping or of identical 4 territory. Commencing with this public hearing process the 5 State Legislature will begin considering the opinion of 6 Florida's citizens. Then legislative committees will 7 convene this fall, and beginning in January the full 8 Legislature will begin the process of developing and 9 considering different districting plans. The regular 10 session ends in March 2002.</p> <p>11 Although the legislative process can be concluded in 12 the regular session for redistricting, the Constitution 13 does provide for additional sessions and review processes 14 in the event that the work of the Legislature on 15 redistricting is not completed within the regular session. 16 For example, the Florida Constitution requires the Governor 17 to reconvene the Legislature in a special session in the 18 event that redistricting plans are not adopted in the 19 regular session. This special session on redistricting 20 shall not exceed 30 consecutive days.</p> <p>21 From here the processes becomes a little more tedious 22 and technical, but let me attempt to explain them by 23 talking about the Congressional process first and then the 24 State legislative process. If, during the regular session 25 reapportionment plans are adopted by the Legislature for</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 Congress, the Governor has the opportunity to approve or 2 veto the adopted plans. Under Section 5 of the Voting 3 Rights Act, which we will address in a little bit more 4 detail a little later on, the Justice Department or the 5 United States Federal District Court for the District of 6 Columbia must also review certain parts of the plan in a 7 process known as preclearance. 8 Now, with respect to the State House and Senate seats, 9 if the Legislature adopts redistricting plans, then 15 days 10 after passage the Florida Attorney General is required to 11 petition the Florida Supreme Court for a determination of 12 the validity of the Legislature's plan. If the Florida 13 Supreme Court declares the Legislature's plan to be 14 invalid, then the Constitution mandates that within five 15 days of such determination the Governor must reconvene the 16 Legislature in an extraordinary session of no more than 15 17 days, at which session the Legislature adopts a joint 18 resolution conforming to the judgment of the Florida 19 Supreme Court. 20 Assuming, and again, it is a little tedious and a 21 little complicated, assuming the regular and special 22 sessions end without the adoption of a plan, of a 23 redistricting plan for the State Legislature, the Attorney 24 General must petition the Florida Supreme Court to commence 25 deliberations on the establishment of a redistricting plan. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 principle generally stands for the proposition that each 2 person's vote should count as much as anyone else's vote. 3 In the context of redistricting, this principle was 4 used to defeat the practice of several states in 5 maintaining districts for legislative offices that were 6 substantially different in population. The Supreme Court 7 concluded that significant disparities in district 8 populations resulted in each vote in the district with 9 smaller populations actually carrying more weight than the 10 vote of those in larger districts. 11 In effect, the one person, one vote standard forbids 12 major disparities in the creation of congressional and 13 state legislative plans. 14 For Congressional Districts, the courts have 15 instituted the strictest standard. As a rule of thumb, 16 population among different districts in one state should be 17 substantially less than 1 percent overall deviation. 18 Deviation is analyzed based on the concept of ideal 19 district size. For example, in the case of Florida, if you 20 take the state's total population and divide it by 25 21 Congressional Districts the resulting number would be the 22 ideal size for each district in the state. 23 Congressional Districts should then be drawn to be 24 well within 1 percent of this ideal number. For State 25 Legislative Districts the Courts have permitted a greater DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 In other words, the Florida Supreme Court has a chance to 2 draw plans. 3 And within 60 days of this petition, a Florida Supreme 4 Court must file an order setting forth the plan that they 5 create. As with congressional redistricting, there must be 6 a preclearance analysis on selected portions of Florida's 7 plan for the state legislative plans. 8 In effect, to recap, again this somewhat complicated 9 and tedious process, there are two different processes. 10 With respect to congressional redistricting, the Governor 11 is powered by the Constitution to sign or veto the bill, 12 subject, of course, to legislative override. And with 13 respect to state redistricting, it is the State Supreme 14 Court and not the Governor that will review the plan and 15 determine its validity. 16 Now, let's talk a little bit about redistricting 17 principles. Those are what we had talked about were the 18 framework, legal framework for adopting a plan. In 19 adopting a redistricting plan the Legislature will be 20 guided by several factors. The principle of one person, 21 one vote and the requirements of the United States 22 Constitution and Federal Statutes. 23 The principle commonly referred to as one person, one 24 vote developed from a series of landmark United States 25 Supreme Court cases in the 1960s is the principle. This DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 deviation among districts and courts have accepted 2 differences between districts of up to 10 percent total 3 deviation under certain circumstances. 4 Other important standards that factor into the 5 Legislature's consideration are set forth in the Voting 6 Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause and the United 7 States Constitution. Section Two of the Voting Rights Act 8 prohibits any practice or procedure including certain 9 redistricting practices that impair the ability of a 10 minority community to elect candidates of choice on an 11 equal basis with nonminority voters. 12 Another section of the Voting Rights Act, Section 5, 13 applies to certain jurisdictions that have previously met 14 the criteria for this type of review. The courts have 15 stated that Section 2 and Section 5 of the Voting Rights 16 Act entail a different process of analysis. Under 17 Section 5, covered jurisdictions are required to submit any 18 proposed change to their practices or procedures affecting 19 voting, including any changes to election districts 20 resulting from redistricting for approval by either the 21 Attorney General of the United States or the Federal 22 District Court of the District of Columbia. And this must 23 be done prior to implementation. 24 This process as we have discussed previously is known 25 as preclearance. And in Florida the covered jurisdictions, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 in other words, the jurisdictions that need the approval of 2 the Attorney General or the Federal District Court are 3 Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough and Monroe counties. 4 The vast majority of preclearance requests are made 5 directly to the United States Attorney General's Office. 6 Preclearance is obtained if the Attorney General 7 effectively indicates that the office has no objection to 8 the change or, if after the expiration of 60 days from 9 submission, no objection to the submitted change has been 10 made by the Attorney General. Whether it is through the 11 court proceeding or the administrative process through the 12 Attorney General's Office, the covered jurisdiction bears 13 the burden of demonstrating that the proposed change, 14 quote, does not have the purpose and will not have the 15 effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account 16 of race or color or membership in a language minority 17 group. 18 The analysis performed under Section 5 is also at 19 times called a, quote, retrogression analysis. In 20 conclusion, Mr. Chairman, as some of you know, and as you 21 now know after hearing my presentation, the legal rules 22 regarding the redistricting and reapportionment processes 23 are indeed complex. And this short presentation can only 24 provide very general guidance on some of the delicate legal 25 issues that will apply to the process, some of which have DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 in Florida for a county over the past ten years at 73.6 2 percent. The top five counties in terms of percentage rate 3 of growth over the past ten years are Flagler, Sumter, 4 Collier, Wakulla and Osceola. 5 Jacksonville remains Florida's most populous city with 6 a population of over 735,000 people. Miami is number two 7 at 362,470, and then Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Hialeah 8 round out the top five. 9 The minority population in the State of Florida, the 10 African-American population for the State of Florida has 11 grown to over 2.3 million as a result of the 2000 Census, 12 which makes up 14.6 percent of the state's population. And 13 the Hispanic population in the State of Florida is just 14 under 2.7 million, or 16.8 percent of the state's 15 population. And the Hispanic population has surpassed the 16 African-American population as the largest minority in the 17 State of Florida. 18 The median age in Florida has risen over the past ten 19 years from 36.3 years in 1990 to 38.7 years in the year 20 2000. Our aged 65-plus senior citizens, our most valuable 21 asset here in Florida, there are now over 2.8 million 22 Floridians aged 65 and above. And while this is an 23 increase of over 400,000 since 1990, the actual percent of 24 the population aged 65 and above has decreased from 18.3 to 25 17.6 percent. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 frankly not been fully decided by the Courts. 2 Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my Senate colleagues and 3 the House legal team, we thank you for this opportunity to 4 make this presentation. 5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Attorney Perez. At this 6 time, I would like to recognize Todd Thompson of the House 7 Redistricting Committee to make a brief presentation on 8 some of the information from the 2000 Census that we will 9 be looking at throughout the process. You are recognized. 10 MR. THOMSON: Thank you. As the Chairman said, I'm 11 going to give a brief census overview for the State of 12 Florida and then some specific numbers for the Miami-Dade 13 County area. Florida's population has grown greatly over 14 the past ten years. Our population as a result of the 2000 15 Census is just under 16 million people and this is growth 16 of just over 3 million people from the 1990 census. And 17 Florida grew at a rate of 23 and a-half percent. As a 18 result of this growth, Florida has gained two new 19 congressional seats for a total now of 25. 20 Miami-Dade County remains Florida's most populous 21 county with a population of just over 2.25 million people. 22 Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough and Pinellas 23 are the five most populous counties in the State of 24 Florida. 25 Flagler County experienced the fastest rate of growth DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 As Mr. Perez touched upon, each district will have an 2 ideal population. Based on 120 State House Districts, an 3 ideal population would be about 133,000 people per 4 district. For 40 State Senate Districts, that would be 5 about 400,000 people per district. And for 25 6 Congressional Districts, an ideal district would have 7 639,295 people. 8 Now I'll give you some population numbers for the 9 Miami-Dade County area. According to the 2000 Census, once 10 again, Miami-Dade County's population is just over 2 and a 11 quarter million people. This is a 16.3 percent increase 12 over the 1990 population, and Miami's city population, once 13 again, is just over 362,000. Monroe County to the south, 14 according to the 2000 Census, the population is 79,589. 15 This is only a 2 percent increase over 1990, and Monroe 16 County is the slowest rate of growth for a county in the 17 State of Florida. 18 And Broward County to our north has a population of 19 over 1.6 million people, according to the 2000 Census, and 20 this is an increase of 29.3 percent over 1990. You can 21 find all of this information and more at the House and 22 Senate redistricting web sites which you will find the 23 addresses for these and the information in the back. Thank 24 you, Mr. Chairman. 25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Thomson. Ladies and DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 gentlemen, as I stated earlier, we will be using the 2 speaker cards to call upon members of the audience who 3 would like to provide us with comments. If there's anyone 4 else who hasn't filled out a card who wishes to speak, 5 please go to the sign-in table and complete a card. And 6 please remember that, to be fair to the other speakers 7 today, that you limit your comments to four minutes. And 8 what we'll do is when you have about 30 seconds left we'll 9 let you know that you have about 30 seconds left. 10 Of course, anybody that wants to submit something in 11 writing, you are welcome to do that. And what I'll do now 12 is begin to call up the speakers. And if you will look in 13 your pink slip there is a number in the bottom right and we 14 are going to go in the order in which you signed up. So, 15 we'll start out with Card Number 1. Card Number 1. 16 Welcome to the public hearing. 17 MR. CLARK: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and members 18 of the committee, I'm Wallace Clark, executive director of 19 a nonprofit crime prevention organization called Mad Dads 20 here in Miami-Dade. We operate in State Senate District 21 36, House Districts 104 and 109. 22 The districts that are -- the communities that are 23 included in these districts currently have three primary, 24 common interests, and that's quality education, community 25 development and crime prevention. It would be in the best DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 our students hold jobs. We also graduate more Hispanics 2 and African-Americans than any other college or university 3 in this United States. Three of our campuses, our three 4 largest campuses, are within Congressional District 17, 5 which means that the majority of our students reside and 6 work within this district. So, we, of course, are very 7 interested in the affairs within this district and your 8 work. 9 Our ability to serve this community, to serve our 10 students and to work on behalf of economic development of 11 the various areas that are within the district is very much 12 tied to one name, and that name is Congresswoman Carrie 13 Meek. I couldn't say enough to you today, but you probably 14 already know, Congresswoman Carrie Meek is a people's 15 champion. And through her work in Congress, because of our 16 diversity, because of the large extent of the district, we 17 have been able to work hand-in-hand with our Congresswoman 18 in all issues related to serving our community, whether 19 it's economic development, housing, transportation, 20 immigration, but most importantly, issues of equal access 21 and equal opportunity for educational purposes. 22 Having one representative for our service area has 23 allowed us to have integrated planning and support and a 24 holistic and comprehensive approach to serving our 25 community; therefore, we are very concerned and very DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 interest of these comparable communities to continue to 2 receive representation by incumbents who clearly understand 3 the residents and businesses in the communities of these 4 districts. Sharing the same characteristics, I urge you to 5 maintain the existing district configuration to the extent 6 possible. Finally, in closing, I invite the committee to 7 return to our community to present the final district maps 8 for our review and comment. Thank you. 9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 2. Welcome. 10 MR. PADRON: Good afternoon, Chairman Byrd, and 11 distinguished members of the state delegation who are here. 12 My name is Eduardo Padron. I'm president of Miami-Dade 13 Community College. And I'm here today to advocate for 14 keeping district, Congressional District 17, very much as 15 it presently is. And let me tell you why. It's all about 16 demographics and it's all about not disenfranchising people 17 from the political process. Perhaps if I tell you very 18 briefly about our institution I will make my point clear. 19 We are the largest community college in America, serving 20 about 140,000 students. Eighty-two percent of those 21 students come from minority groups. We enroll more 22 Hispanics and African-Americans than any other college or 23 university in this great United States of America. 24 It is also the college of the working force. The 25 average age of our student body is 28. And 75 percent of DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 interested in keeping the uniformity that now represents 2 this district so we can better serve the people. Thank you 3 very much and God bless. 4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 3. Number 3. 5 MR. YAP: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, distinguished 6 representatives. My name is L. George Yap, I am a citizen 7 of this great country, United States of America and 8 Dade-County for the last 26 years. I am president and 9 owner of a company known as LEASA Industries located in one 10 of the most beautiful and peaceful cities in Miami known 11 as Liberty City, Dade County. The company that I run is a 12 food-manufacturing company. It's not the food that we 13 manufacture, it is the people who work for us. The 14 workers consist of 95 percent African-American, who are 15 mothers on welfare, food stamp collectors, school dropouts, 16 drug addicts, drug dealers, ex-offenders. These people 17 given a second chance in life I work with are some of the 18 best workers any company could hire. 19 All I have done was made possible by people who care, 20 such as my wife Inez and my family. And, especially, the 21 Honorable Congresswoman Carrie Meek and her son, Kendrick 22 Meek, and Commissioner Rubio. These are a few of the 23 beautiful people who have made it possible for my company 24 to start back in the inner-city. And I must give special 25 thanks to Congresswoman Carrie Meek for the many wonderful DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 things she has done for the poor, underprivileged people. 2 She's made economic development possible in the inner-city 3 most depressed inner-city of Dade County such as Liberty 4 City, Overtown, Opa Locka, Homestead, Allapattah. 5 Congresswoman Meek implements Miami-Dade county, and 6 many family from District 17 will benefit from the 7 development, please do not take away, divide up the 8 District 17, let the people who have been waiting a 9 lifetime to share in this good life and wonderful things 10 that is about to happen. Because of Congresswoman Carrie 11 Meek, my companies are now expanding, building (inaudible) 12 and now spending \$5 million to build a new manufacturing 13 plant in Liberty City which employs over 100 more people in 14 the year 2002. This was made possible by Congresswoman 15 Meek. There are many more companies that is coming into 16 the inner-city to establish new business, creating jobs for 17 people who have never had a job before. 18 I'm now pleading with you once again, please do not 19 divide up District 17, let the people who have waited a 20 lifetime to benefit from this coming good life that is 21 coming to them. God bless y'all and God Bless America. 22 Thank you very much. 23 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 4. Number 4. 24 MR. PARRISH: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and 25 members of the committee. Giving God the glory, I'm glad DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Before we go to Speaker 2 Number 5, members of the audience, we do have interpreters 3 available here today to assist anyone who wishes to address 4 the public hearing, so we have interpreters available if 5 that would assist anyone. Also, let me remind you to make 6 sure that your cell phone and pagers are on silent mode. 7 You are recognized. You are Number 5? 8 MS. ESTIME-THOMPSON: Number 5, yes, I am. 9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. 10 MS. ESTIME-THOMPSON: Thank you very much. My name is 11 Marie Estime-Thompson and I am a Haitian-American. I speak 12 to you this afternoon on behalf of the Haitian Lawyers 13 Association. And I would like to thank you all for giving 14 me an opportunity to speak on this issue of redistricting. 15 I would first like to thank all of the friends of the 16 Haitian community, both on a congressional level and the 17 state level for their past and ongoing support of the 18 Haitian community. 19 And I would also like to acknowledge that Haitians, 20 African-Americans, the Hispanic communities. For the most 21 part they all share common concerns and shared the same 22 barriers with respect to education, health care, adequate 23 representation and the like. However, the issues 24 addressing language, culture, and immigration ought to be 25 identified and distinguished as to benefit each community. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 to be here, thank God for this opportunity. I came as a 2 volunteer to speak as a descendent of an African that was 3 forced into slavery. Now I stand October the 2nd, 2001, in 4 the new millennium, and I'm asking that when you start 5 drawing your redistricting lines, that you protect our 6 incumbents so that we can rebuild America and let America 7 grow from inside the inner-city so that the State of 8 Florida can show the entire nation that we can set an 9 example to show the world that we can all do it together 10 with love and the grace of God, because I do believe in 11 America and I believe in the State of Florida, Dade County. 12 And I pray that the inner-cities be blessed with more 13 opportunities for the young blacks to have opportunity to 14 become, I would say, construction-job oriented, 15 intelligence, and I volunteered today to come up here and 16 speak as an individual from the inner-city. I grew up here 17 in Dade County. I have also had the opportunity to 18 volunteer to inner-city gangs out in Los Angeles. So I 19 feel that if you give the inner-cities an alternative, a 20 second chance, like the gentleman said earlier, to enhance 21 and bring tourists into the inner-city, that we can have a 22 great state to show the entire world so that when they do 23 come to Dade County and South Florida they enjoy it and go 24 back and tell the rest of the world. Thank you and God 25 bless each and every one. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 And today I am here to speak on behalf of the Haitian 2 community. Apparently by looking at the last census and 3 addressing the fact that a designation of Haitian ethnicity 4 was not included in the census, the Haitian community is 5 not really recognized as a viable group. In fact, looking 6 at the census, the Hispanic ethnicity was not only 7 mentioned but was even broken down further whereby one 8 could determine what type of Hispanics was filling out the 9 form. For example, Cuban, Puerto Rican, et cetera. 10 But in the African-American community, only the 11 ethnicity of African-American was identified, without 12 breaking it down as in the Hispanic community. And as a 13 footnote, I would also like to add that even in the voting 14 rolls, the ethnicity of Haitian was excluded. And we are 15 requesting that this identification be replaced. And I say 16 all of this, not because I want to cause a division within 17 the African-American community, and of course, you know, 18 the Haitian community is a part of this African-American 19 community, but rather because the Haitian-American 20 community is, in fact, a viable and a growing community. 21 Not only do we contribute economically to this 22 community, but we are also politically motivated as 23 evidenced by our very first Haitian-American State 24 Representative. And we have also very recently elected our 25 first Haitian-American mayor to the North Miami council and DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 have, in fact, been the controlling vote in North Miami. 2 And there are many other communities where 3 Haitian-Americans are flourishing. 4 Again, the Haitian community applauds and thanks its 5 support for the African-American community; however, the 6 Haitian community has issues, concerns and voices that need 7 to be addressed and heard. 8 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty seconds. 9 MS. ESTIME-THOMPSON: The Haitian community is 10 sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute 11 a majority. The Haitian community is a politically 12 cohesive group and the Haitian community would always be 13 defeated and never have adequate representation if the 14 lines are not strategically redrawn. And for the 15 aforementioned reasons stated above, we are respectfully 16 requesting that you hear our plea and allow our voices to 17 be heard. Thank you for your time and your consideration. 18 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 6. Number 6. 19 MR. McARTHUR: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members 20 of the committee, my name is Cyrus McArthur and I'm here to 21 talk about the redistricting of our community. First of 22 all, let me say, I hope that each of you will be very 23 considerate of all of our elected officials. It is true, 24 Miami-Dade County population has increased and there's a 25 need to make a change, but please don't draw the lines and DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 joined here with two of my colleagues from the city 2 commission, Vice Mayor Joseph Kelly, Commissioner Rose 3 Tydus and two appointed officials, our city manager, Newell 4 Daughtry and our city clerk, Debra Irby, and of course, we 5 have many of our residents in the rear, if you could please 6 stand. 7 (Group stands.) 8 As mayor of the City of Opa Locka, I can truly say 9 that I'm proud to serve the Opa Locka community, a city in 10 which I was born and raised. The City of Opa Locka City 11 Commission wishes to express its support of Congresswoman 12 Carrie P. Meek for her dedication, commitment, 13 attentiveness, responsiveness to the various issues 14 affecting the City of Opa Locka, which includes funding for 15 our wastewater and infrastructure problems, and designating 16 the Opa Locka Airport as part of the empowerment zone. 17 Prior to Congresswoman Carrie Meek being elected, the City 18 of Opa Locka was often overlooked and did not receive the 19 attention that other cities received. Oftentimes we felt 20 left out. However, thanks to the effort of the 21 Congresswoman, the City of Opa Locka no longer feels 22 isolated and we commend her for that. 23 The 17th Congressional District is a community of 24 interest, one in which local residents address common 25 issues related to education concerns and environmental and DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 chop up our community and decrease our elected officials. 2 There's a need for our elected officials. Congresswoman 3 Carrie Meek, Senator Daryl Jones, Senator Kendrick Meek, 4 Representative Dorothy Mindingall, Wilbert Holloway, Edward 5 Bullard, Phillip Brutus and others are needed in the 6 community. 7 In closing, please remember the Voter's Act of 1965 8 when you draw your district. Section 2 of the Voting 9 Rights Act states that redistricting plans must provide 10 protected minorities with the equal opportunity to 11 participate in a political process and elect 12 representatives of their choice. Section 5 of the Voting 13 Rights Act of 1965 states, No regression of minority voting 14 strength. Please do not take the district backwards, 15 please consider drawing new lines and adding new elected 16 officials. 17 It is very important that in closing, again, that when 18 you all make your decision, please come back and let us 19 know, do not keep it a secret, because we are the ones that 20 voted for you and we support you. God bless you and God 21 bless America. 22 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 7. Number 7. 23 MR. MILLER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and members 24 of the committee. My name is Alvin Miller, I am the mayor 25 of the City of Opa Locka. I am joined here with -- I am DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 economic development concerns, income level and housing 2 pattern concerns. During the no-name storm in the summer 3 of 2000, the City of Opa Locka officials were forced to 4 relocate hundreds of families from their flooded housing 5 complex in the Opa Locka/North Dade area of the 17th 6 District to affordable housing in the South Dade area of 7 the 17th District. 8 In doing so, we were able to join forces of both the 9 North and the South Dade areas. We truly could not have 10 accomplished this great and immediate task without the 11 direction, supervision, and support from Congresswoman 12 Carrie Meek. The character of the 17th Congressional 13 District speaks high volumes when seven outstanding 14 community builders were recognized by Congresswoman Carrie 15 P. Meek to name several United States post offices in their 16 honor. 17 On a personal note, I am extremely proud to say that 18 the post office located in the City of Opa Locka was named 19 in the honor of my incredible mother, the late Honorable 20 Helen Miller. 21 Congresswoman Carrie Meek has been a real champion for 22 the causes of people, both inside and outside the political 23 spectrum. Congresswoman Carrie Meek has a special interest 24 and concern for the City of Opa Locka, she loves the City 25 of Opa Locka, and the citizens and the commission loves DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 Carrie Meek. It is imperative that the citizens of Opa 2 Locka continue to have stability in their representatives; 3 therefore, we are pleading with you to keep the existing 4 17th Congressional District to the extent possible. Thank 5 you for your time. 6 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Now we'll go to Number 8, but I would 7 ask if Numbers 9, 10, and 11 could come on up and sit on 8 the front row if you would. So, Number 8, you are 9 welcomed. Welcome to the public hearing. 10 MS. EDWARDS: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and 11 distinguished members of this committee. I'm Barbara 12 Edwards, vice-president for Development in College 13 Relations at Florida Memorial College. I appreciate this 14 opportunity to come before you this evening to speak on 15 behalf of the college regarding the issue of redistricting. 16 Florida Memorial College is the only historically black 17 college in South Florida. And it is located in District 17 18 where the Honorable Carrie P. Meek serves as Congresswoman. 19 She has been tenacious in making sure that Florida 20 Memorial College receives its fair share of support from 21 Washington, D.C. When our president, Dr. Albert E. Smith, 22 joined the college in 1993 one of the first persons he 23 talked with was Congresswoman Meek. And she shared with 24 her the fact that we had a fledgling aviation program at 25 the college. She immediately got busy working on our DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 relates to maintaining District 17. 2 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 9. Number 9. 3 MR. MUNROE: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, 4 good afternoon and welcome to Miami-Dade County, my name is 5 Anthony Munroe, I am the president and chief executive 6 officer of Economic Opportunity Family Health Center. 7 Joining me today are members of my staff and the 8 organization. I would like for them to stand, please. 9 Ladies from the Reef House, staff. 10 (Group stands.) 11 MR. MUNROE: We are here to demonstrate our support 12 for this process. Family Health Center is the largest 13 minority employer in North Miami-Dade County with an annual 14 budget in excess of \$20 million. Family Health Center is 15 very proud of the fact that we have served our urban 16 communities for 34 years. Next year, June, we celebrate 35 17 years of providing quality health care and social services 18 to our diverse yet commonly linked communities. 19 We are accredited by the Joint Commission on the 20 Accreditation of Health Care Organizations and have for 21 many years been a national model of community health 22 centers being one of the largest and most comprehensive in 23 the nation. We owe a great deal to the community that is 24 here today and we owe a great deal to community leaders, 25 such as Jessie Price, Senator Jones, Senator Meek, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 behalf. 2 As a result of her involvement, through a partnership 3 with the United States Air Force, Florida Memorial College 4 is able to provide full scholarships to students who are 5 accepted into the program and who agree to enroll in the 6 University of Miami Air Force Reserve Officer Training 7 Corps. 8 Through her efforts, Florida Memorial College received 9 over \$1.5 million from the United States Air Force 10 partnership. I was privileged to be part of those 11 meetings, and I want you to know that she is relentless 12 when it comes to education and providing opportunities for 13 all students. Congresswoman Meek, she gets the job done, 14 not only for Florida Memorial College, but for all of the 15 people in her district, black, white, Hispanic, Haitian, 16 all who are in need of her advocacy to help them realize 17 the American dream. 18 It is the kind of leadership we must have in District 19 17. We want the existing 17th Congressional District to be 20 maintained. If any changes are to be made, then simply 21 expand it, but do not take any part of it away. 22 Congresswoman Meek knows and understands this 23 multi-ethnic community and we want her to continue to 24 represent us. I trust that this committee will take the 25 comments that I have made under serious consideration as it DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 Representative Mindingall, Representative Wilson, 2 Representative Holloway, Representative Brutus, and more 3 importantly, and especially, Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek. 4 They have unwaveringly helped us meet the vast needs 5 of our community, a community of common interests and 6 issues. We are extremely honored to have Congresswoman 7 Meek as our representative. She has always and continues 8 to listen and act on our concerns and needs. We can count 9 on her at all times. Family Health Center has 16 service 10 sites throughout North Miami-Dade County. We employ 310 11 professionals, including doctors, dentists, nurses, 12 psychologists, and paraprofessionals, the vast majority of 13 which live within the current Congressional District 17. 14 We provide a quality and comprehensive primary health 15 care and social service, regardless of race, ethnicity, 16 immigration status or insurance coverage to close to 29,000 17 individuals during 2000. This meant we provided about 18 125,000 patient visits during the same year. The vast 19 majority of the 29,000 individuals we served live within 20 Congressional District 17. They are mainly women and 21 children. They are a community of common interests and 22 issues, they want quality, accessible and affordable health 23 care and social services. The Congresswoman understands 24 that. 25 They are a community of common interests and issues, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 although ethnically diverse with 40 percent 2 African-American, 20 percent Hispanic, 15 percent Haitian, 3 10 percent Caucasian, and 15 percent Caribbean, the 4 Congresswoman appreciates this and celebrates our unified 5 diversity. They are a community of common interests and 6 issues, they want a responsive and representative voice in 7 Washington, D.C., they want and need Congresswoman Carrie 8 P. Meek. Our community of common interests and issues are 9 disproportionately issued by -- such as health care. 10 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Your time has expired, so if you could 11 wrap it up in about 15 seconds. 12 MR. MUNROE: I will be finished in a few minutes. As 13 HIV/AIDS and substance abuse, Liberty City, Little Haiti 14 and Brownsville, has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in 15 the county. Opa Locka has the second highest in the 16 county, through the tireless support of the Congresswoman 17 and many other supporters in a proactive and responsive 18 way, Congresswoman Meek organized an extremely successful 19 public forum on HIV/AIDS. She and only she was able to 20 bring together many national leaders to talk about, and 21 most importantly do something about the toll of HIV/AIDS 22 that has been ravishing our communities. 23 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you very much for appearing 24 today. And in all fairness to the rest of the speakers, 25 you can submit the written submission and we will have DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 We and the Democratic black caucus want to educate our 2 voters. We will not take our voters for granted. No 3 longer will election be a walk in the park. The candidates 4 need to earn our vote and to respect their constituents as 5 in Congressional District 17. Voters' education, 6 registration in getting out to vote is very important to 7 us. We will need this for 2002 and 2004. What we need to 8 do, we need to call our committee members here on the 9 panel, our state representatives, and ask for the 10 guidelines. And I will repeat, we need to ask for the 11 guidelines as to what the guidelines will be when drawing 12 of the lines. 13 And to add a last note, Florida, as we speak right 14 now, is in a state of emergency. In the event we go to 15 war, we can find ourselves in an international tension and 16 an economic crisis by Executive Order 11051, which means 17 that our Constitution can be suspended and all of this, 18 what we are doing now, can be null and void. So, 19 therefore, we need to make sure that our constitutional 20 rights are upheld so that when we draw these lines we will 21 make sure that our elected officials are elected from our 22 area and we do not deplete our votes and our rights. 23 So I will wrap this up in saying, we need to make sure 24 that our constitutional rights are intact. Because all of 25 us sitting here and testifying, with the stroke of a pen, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 somebody from the member staff get a copy of that from you. 2 So thank you for your coming today and thank you for your 3 members coming too. Number 10. 4 MS. WIMBERLY: Here I am. Good afternoon, Chairman, 5 panel members, I am Paulette Simms Wimberly, Miami-Dade 6 Councilwoman from area 4-45 in the North Dade area. The 7 apportionment information has been taken and has been given 8 and now we are down to the drawing of the lines. I was 9 asked to come out and give testimony as to how the lines 10 should be drawn. Should we squeeze 75 to 97 percent of our 11 eligible black voters in one voting district area? Doing 12 this will only allow us one district in our Miami-Dade 13 area, diluting our representation in the Legislature. 14 Our Congressional State Senate and House of 15 Representatives seat will all come from one particular 16 area, or should we draw the line, should we draw the voting 17 district lines putting 47 to 50 percent of black eligible 18 voters in one district and another 40 -- another 40 to 19 45 percent to maximize our strength, thereby winning two or 20 more voting districts in an area and increasing our 21 political representation? This is a number game and we 22 need to make sure that the numbers count for us. This 23 won't happen for another ten years, so we need to do our 24 work now. We need to keep our political representation 25 boundary while we can. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 our Constitution can be down the drain. 2 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 11. 3 MS. HEATH: Good afternoon, panel and Chairman, I'm 4 here from the Human Service Coalition to speak to you on 5 the rights of people in Liberty City. I'm joined with 6 others here today to urge you to adopt the setting of the 7 guiding principles that incorporate the basic elements of 8 fairness to us in processing and receiving public input, 9 developing the maps, allowing the timely feedbacks from the 10 public prior to the final adoption of any plans that you 11 are going to make. 12 I have worked with Mr. Meek on the voting and I have a 13 little issue with your wanting to break up our districts. 14 You already say we can't vote if we are felons, but you 15 count us, you know, for the money that you guys want from 16 the census, so if we keep them here we might be able to 17 vote and have another district instead of taking one away. 18 And I appreciate you listening to me this evening. Thank 19 you. 20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 12 is withdrawn. So we go now 21 to Number 13. And would 13, 14, 15, 16 please come up and 22 be ready. Welcome. 23 MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you, sir, Mr. Chairman, members 24 of the committee. My name is Roy Phillips and today I'm 25 here to speak to you as the retiring founding campus DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 president of Miami-Dade Community College in Homestead, 2 which is the southernmost portion of our Honorable Carrie 3 Meek's District 17.</p> <p>4 It is my honor and distinct privilege to speak before 5 you on her behalf and to keep the district intact. I'm 6 also here to speak for my other colleagues who are here, 7 Freddie Wilson, Jones and others in our area. I am hoping 8 that they keep their districts also intact because they are 9 outstanding members of our Senate and our House here in 10 this area and they represent this area well.</p> <p>11 But my specific purpose today is to speak for Carrie 12 Meek, whom I have known for 20 years, both as a supervisor, 13 a friend and coworker. During the period, I found her to 14 be a most honorable and outstanding woman of the highest 15 integrity, moral character, dedication, and commitment to 16 all of the people of her district. I will speak briefly of 17 her outstanding work, specifically in the southern end of 18 our county.</p> <p>19 During Hurricane Andrew she was the most outstanding 20 leader in pulling together all of the Federal resources and 21 helping us to revitalize our community. She stood as a 22 stalwart champion in terms of keeping our Homestead Air 23 Force Base open as a potential economic engine to the 24 southern end of the county. After the hurricane was over, 25 she continued to work in this area. As a matter of fact, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 district, keep our district intact. Because she is a 2 person who can help us and she is a person who has helped 3 us to really help all of the people of this county.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty seconds.</p> <p>5 MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you very much and please consider 6 this testimony.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 14, 14.</p> <p>8 MR. ALEXANDER: Good afternoon, Chairman, members of 9 the committee, and students and faculty at Miami Central 10 Senior High School and all of those in attendance. My full 11 name is Fabio Alexander Vazquez and I'm President of Miami 12 Executive Aviation at Opa Locka Airport and I'm proud to be 13 here today and serve my community. And it is also an honor 14 to be here this evening to speak on behalf of an 15 outstanding congresswoman that represents the City of Opa 16 Locka and Opa Locka Airport in the 17th Congressional 17 District.</p> <p>18 My involvement with Opa Locka Airport began on 19 November 18th, 1996 when I opened the doors to Miami 20 Executive Aviation to Opa Locka Airport with just five 21 employees. We are a 24-hour flight service operation 22 providing aviation fuels, aircraft charter, sales and 23 management, corporate hanger, office leasing, parts, pilot 24 supplies, and online aviation store. But most importantly, 25 we have 33 employees and that couldn't have been possible DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 she has brought millions of dollars into this district.</p> <p>2 At Miami-Dade Community College, she has brought over 3 \$20 million, 13 million of those dollars have been brought 4 for an aviation program. And today you know the importance 5 of aviation to this county and to this nation. It is one 6 of the most important economic engines in the area.</p> <p>7 She has provided money for the training of pilots, she 8 has provided money for the training of people in security 9 and people who work in our most important airports here in 10 the state and here in the county. Not only has she brought 11 money for aviation into this area, she's brought many 12 dollars into economic development for our economy and job 13 training. Just a few years ago she brought into this 14 county about a million dollars, a NASA grant that she 15 placed in the congressional appropriation for the college 16 to establish an incubator in cooperation with the City of 17 Homestead to begin to train a lot of our small business 18 people in terms of developing their businesses in the 19 southern part of this county.</p> <p>20 She has also been a champion in the area of senior 21 citizens. She has brought many dollars into the county in 22 terms of providing housing for senior citizens and also for 23 many of our low-income residents. So today, based upon her 24 outstanding public work as a public servant, I'm asking you 25 please to consider very strongly not to break up her DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 without the help of Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek. The 2 business community here at Opa Locka Airport and the City 3 of Opa Locka where I have my business owes a great deal to 4 Congresswoman Carrie Meek. She has helped us create and 5 build a political and legal environment in which our 6 businesses flourish, creating jobs, economic opportunity 7 for thousands in the 17th District.</p> <p>8 I have worked closely with the U.S. Congresswoman 9 Carrie P. Meek and the Miami-Dade aviation department staff 10 at Opa Locka Airport to improve and expand U.S. Customs' 11 service hours from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. She has been very 12 supportive, responsive, and educational to the business 13 operators at Opa Locka Airport on how to achieve objectives 14 through the political process like the Empowerment Zone, 15 U.S. Customs and the Enterprise Zone, along with other 16 economic organizations that create stimulus to the 17 community and its people.</p> <p>18 The joint effort has successfully accomplished an 19 Empowerment Zone designation for the airport, which I think 20 is one of her greatest achievements for her and the 21 district. Our aggressive marketing efforts have created a 22 portal at Opa Locka for international business, as it's 23 brought alliances and business relationships with major 24 organizations such as Sak's Fifth Avenue, Brighton, United 25 Parcel Service, Cessna, Gulf Stream, Executive Jet DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 Aviation, AT&T Wireless, Florida Power and Light, Greg 2 Norman Collection, and Chevron.</p> <p>3 She is an advocate for social programs that support 4 the betterment of youth and families. I believe that it 5 would be a disservice to Opa Locka Airport and the city to 6 redraw the lines that would take Congresswoman Carrie Meek 7 out of our district.</p> <p>8 From my personal experience, I must say I have called 9 many elected officials. Some respond, some do not respond. 10 I have written many letters, some respond and some do not. 11 Sometimes I get aides and sometimes I get their staff 12 members. But it is a true pleasure to get the 13 Congresswoman on the phone to resolve issues. I think that 14 it is a true commitment and testament of her heart and her 15 desire to serve the American people and the City of Opa 16 Locka and her district.</p> <p>17 Please keep the existing 17th Congressional District 18 under Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek currently as it is to 19 the extent possible. Thank you for your time, and thank 20 you, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, and your staff for your 21 unconditional support. God bless.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 15. Number 15.</p> <p>23 MS. PAUL: Mr. Chairman, and committee members, good 24 afternoon. My name is Carline Paul, I am Haitian-American 25 and I reside in District 36, which includes Liberty City, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 MS. MORGAN: Hello. Mr. Chairman, and members of the 2 committee, my name is Cloretta Morgan and I am a certified 3 nursing assistant at Jackson Heights Rehab Center and a 4 proud member of FCIU 1199, Service Employees' International 5 Union 1199, represents nursing home workers throughout the 6 State of Florida, many that are living here in Miami-Dade 7 County. I'm here on behalf of thousands of workers who are 8 living in a number of districts in South Florida including 9 the 17th Congressional District.</p> <p>10 Senate District 36, House District 104, House District 11 108 and House District 109. All of these districts 12 represent distinct communities of interest. I'm here to 13 say that our workers are very satisfied with the current 14 district and our leadership. Congresswoman Meek has been a 15 tireless advocate for quality care and nursing homes, 16 including better regulation and health care dollars for 17 better care for residents. And the State Legislator 18 Senator Kendrick Meek has continued to respond to the needs 19 of Florida's most valued citizens and residents in our 20 state nursing homes.</p> <p>21 As you know, health care dollars are allocated from 22 the state and federal government to our community to 23 provide long-term care, and the appropriate distribution of 24 these resources is a trust the public instill in our public 25 servants. I'm also here to say we support communities of DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 Little Haiti, North Miami, Miami Shores, Norland, Carol 2 City, El Portal, and Allapattah. This Senate District is 3 very diverse and we need to continue to have someone 4 represent us who understands the dynamics of all of those 5 diverse cultures.</p> <p>6 When Haitian refugees come to shore off of the coast, 7 Senator Meek is one of the first to respond. When the 8 Haitian community wanted to go to Washington to protest 9 current immigration laws, our Senator helped to organize 10 our community. When the Haitian community said there was a 11 need for a program for cancer screening and awareness, our 12 Senator sponsored an appropriation for the Haitian-American 13 Cancer Association. Senator Meek responds to the need of 14 all constituents.</p> <p>15 I ask that you refrain from drawing any district that 16 would take away our current representation. In fact, 17 expanding this district to cover all of North Miami just 18 enhances our representation. Representative Mindingall, 19 Representative Wilson, Representative Holloway, House 20 District 108 where we got our first Haitian-American 21 representative. Congressional District 17 needs to remain.</p> <p>22 In closing, please, Mr. Chairman, I am requesting that 23 the committee comes back and shows us the map so that we 24 can have and put in our input. Thank you very much.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 16, 16. Welcome. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 interests that consider common languages, culture and 2 health care concerns that are invaluable to our population 3 here in South Florida.</p> <p>4 Many Haitian and immigrant workers now have a new 5 voice in Tallahassee in Representative Phillip Brutus. In 6 the House of Representatives, Representative Brutus, 7 Representative Bendross-Mindingall and many other South 8 Florida legislators help campaign for improved staff and 9 ratios for CNAs, many of whom reside in their district.</p> <p>10 In conclusion, I hope the Legislature will commit to 11 holding public hearings after plans are released so that 12 all Floridians can react to actual proposals. I also hope 13 that all of those involved in this process are guided by 14 the idea of fairness. Thank you and have a great day.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 17. Welcome.</p> <p>16 MS. BASTIEN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, committee 17 members. My name is Marleine Bastien, I am the executive 18 director of Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami, the Haitian Women of 19 Miami, Inc. I am an immigrant of Haiti and I speak Creole. 20 I left work early today so I could speak to you, and I 21 thank you for the opportunity. I'm one of over a million 22 Haitian-Americans in the United States and one of 260,000 23 at the state level. Do I need to tell you that we were 24 undercounted in the last census? I'm part of a group that 25 was not welcome here. In fact, we were prevented from DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 coming in. After we came we were detained months, 2 sometimes years. We fought to stay after we were released 3 from detention.</p> <p>4 We crossed many hurdles, broken down many barriers, we 5 beat the odds to become U.S. citizens, and yet we have been 6 disenfranchised over and over and over again. Those of you 7 who voted in the last Presidential election know the 8 anguish and the pain of being disenfranchised, it's 9 unbearable. I'm standing here in front of you today to 10 urge you to help us preserve our identity and to ask you to 11 be careful when you draw the lines so that you don't erase 12 entire groups in that process.</p> <p>13 Draw the line in a way to help us maintain our 14 extensive numbers, our political cohesiveness, our 15 geographic compactness, and most importantly, the 16 possibility to elect our own. In essence, I'm asking you 17 to designate areas of Little Haiti, not Miami and not Miami 18 Beach, as communities of interest so as to fulfill the 19 overstated requirements. Doing so will give us, black 20 minorities, the opportunity to participate in the political 21 process and to elect our own. Help us maintain District 22 108. We want to keep our first Haitian-American State Rep, 23 Mr. Philip Brutus. Help us maintain District 36. Senator 24 Kendrick Meek has been a strong advocate of our issues and 25 a strong supporter in our fight against racist immigration DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 This district is the home of the first pioneer of Dade 2 County, the laborers that helped build Flagler Railroad, 3 the home of African-Americans that cleared the land to 4 build Miami, home of charter members of the City of Miami, 5 the City of Miami. The district that experiences human and 6 natural disasters. And, finally, the district that elected 7 the first American, Afro-American since Reconstruction 8 days, and the first Afro-American female to Congress, 9 Congresswoman Carrie Meek.</p> <p>10 We need Carrie Meek in Washington, D.C. We need 11 Congresswoman Carrie Meek to continue the work, to continue 12 to represent and speak for education, for health care, for 13 environment, for seniors and child care, not only for our 14 district but for the nation. It is important that we keep 15 our history as is. We want to continue to preserve our 16 heritage. This is one way we can ensure that 17 Afro-Americans will continue to have a voice in Washington, 18 D.C., and also in the State of Florida. We want to make 19 sure that we keep Representative Carrie Meek and all of our 20 local representatives.</p> <p>21 We are pleading with you today to keep the line as 22 near as possible. If you cannot -- if you must make an 23 argument, please do not destroy it, we would like for you 24 to expand it. We want to make sure that for the next ten 25 years we will have a representative in Tallahassee to speak DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 policies.</p> <p>2 Maintain District 17. Our own Congresswoman Carrie 3 Meek has always been a strong supporter in our fight 4 against INS racist policies. Mr. Chair, committee members, 5 thank you again for the opportunity, and please, help us 6 keep hope alive for a group of people who have been denied 7 so much and yet so desperately want recognition through 8 participation in the electoral processes in mainstream 9 America. Thank you.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 18.</p> <p>11 MS. FRAZER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and members. 12 Thank you for hearing the concern of the citizens in the 13 17th Congressional District. My name is Eufaula L. Frazer. 14 My address is 4929 Northwest 17th Avenue, Miami, Florida. 15 I live in the 17th Congressional District. I am a member 16 of several community faith organizations, including the 17 AARP, the community action board, the Beulah Graham 18 Scholarship Foundation, Dade County transportation, and the 19 Dade County Democratic party. I live in the moda 20 (phonetic) city area of this district. This area has a 21 large percentage of poverty. Many of the residents receive 22 subsidies simply for survival. This district is very dear 23 to the heart of Afro-Americans in Miami. It has the first 24 government center to provide all services including a court 25 in the moda city area. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 for us. And we do not want, at the end of this century, 2 not to have a representative like we did at the beginning 3 of the last century. So, please help us to preserve 4 District 17 as it is and keep Congresswoman Carrie Meek to 5 be the voice for Florida, for the nation, and for our 6 community.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 19.</p> <p>8 Mr. LAWRENCE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and members 9 of the committee. My name is Lonnie Lawrence and I am a 10 born and raised Miamian and just a citizen here before you 11 today. Let me thank you for the opportunity to speak to 12 you on this most vital issue. To be responsive, respected, 13 respectful, resourceful and representative are all words 14 that describe Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek. And that's why 15 I'm here today, simply to say that, to the extent possible, 16 that the district she currently represents be maintained so 17 that those persons who before Meek felt disenfranchised can 18 continue to have equal representation in Washington.</p> <p>19 I know that this is a process that must be carried 20 out, but I would hope that it would not be done for the 21 sake of achieving political party power, but rather for the 22 sake of ensuring the continued participation in a system by 23 those who often see the system as the enemy. We are very 24 proud with the current district and its configuration and 25 the work of our congresswoman. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 In short, she has been a person who has produced for 2 her community, be it in transportation, housing, economic 3 development, education and other areas of social services. 4 We cannot afford for that to be lost in the shuffle. 5 In the final analysis, Congresswoman Meek has 6 responded to the needs of those of us of color who she 7 truly understands that in the larger community, we can be 8 isolated, deprived and disenfranchised, but with her we 9 truly have a voice of reason for all seasons, not just 10 election season. 11 For those of you that know her know that it's very 12 difficult to say no to her, and because of that other 13 things have happened, not where she was directly involved, 14 but because she was involved, it happened to the benefit of 15 this community. You have heard a lot of numbers thrown out 16 in terms of money that has come into this community, but I 17 don't think that you can put a figure on the amount of 18 lives and future of those lives that have been touched 19 because of the things that she's done. You can't put a 20 monetary figure on that. 21 In closing, let me say this, if you look at 22 Congresswoman Meek and you look at her district, you will 23 see that from North Dade to Florida City the people that 24 she represents have the same concerns. It is the simple 25 things in life, such as affordable housing, transportation, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 Representative Logan was my Representative. So when the 2 positions changed, I knew who still was my Representative 3 and who was my Senator and State Senator. And I wouldn't 4 like to see anything changed negative because most of us 5 know Congresswoman Meek, she is a legend. 6 So I just thought that I would stop and say this. And 7 through her, I have learned who my local State 8 Representative is. And I have also been able to work with 9 Senator Meek very diligently. I haven't met Mr. Holloway 10 personally yet, but I will. Thank you for your time. 11 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. What we are going to do 12 now is take a five-minute break so the court reporter can 13 stretch and we'll resume back in five minutes. 14 (Brief recess.) 15 CHAIRMAN BYRD: We'll resume now with speaker Number 16 22. Would speaker Number 22 -- Number 22, Number 22, 17 Number 22, you are recognized to address the public 18 hearing. 19 MS. XANTHOPOULOU: Thank you very much. Good 20 afternoon. My name is Paula Xanthopoulou, I'm president of 21 the National Women's Caucus of Florida and I live and vote 22 in Miami Shores. I'll be brief. My concerns are concerns 23 that you have heard many, many times before which 24 underscores I think the fact that these things are in the 25 minds of many, many people. And they are outlined in the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 and education of our children and the ability to enjoy the 2 American dream of life, liberty, and a pursuit of happiness 3 which for many in the inner-cities is just that, a dream. 4 Thank you very much for your time. 5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 20. All right, 6 Number 21. Are you 21? 7 MR. SPAULDING: Yes. 8 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Welcome to the public hearing, you are 9 recognized. 10 MR. SPAULDING: Thank you. To the chairperson and the 11 board, I didn't get prepared to come over here and speak. 12 I just heard about this meeting a few days ago so I thought 13 I would come over to see what it was about. In fact, I 14 started to withdraw my name from the list of speaking, but 15 then I sat and listened for a while and I found out what it 16 was about. So, I would like to say that Senator Carrie 17 Meek has been a leaning shoulder to anybody in need for 18 this community for some years. 19 I am a child advocate, I deal with parents and 20 children and the schools. And when I ran into problems and 21 wanted information years ago I called her office and 22 someone in her office gave me the names of my 23 representatives. And I looked on my voter's registration 24 card and found out what House and what Senate I was in, and 25 so at that time, Senator Turner was my Senator and DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 statement of fairness, which I'm sure you're familiar with. 2 My first and gravest concern, perhaps, is that the 3 districts in this process not be sliced and diced in 4 disregard of communities of interest such as neighborhoods, 5 cities, and counties, or in disregard of the rights of 6 minority groups. 7 Secondly, comes more in the form of a request, that 8 when you are done with your redistricting process and made 9 your maps, that you bring your maps back to us for review 10 and for public input. It's not only important that this 11 process not be perceived as a done deal, but that it in 12 fact not be a done deal. 13 Sitting in this auditorium with so many wonderful 14 citizens, I'm reminded of the simple concept that 15 government is not a political party, it's not a business, 16 it's a public service and in this process, more than ever, 17 it is very -- it's crucial, it's imperative that the public 18 be served. Thank you. 19 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 23. Number 23. 20 Welcome to the public hearing. 21 MS. PERSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, 22 good evening and welcome to Miami. My name is Lottie 23 Person. I am a community activist and a resident in Senate 24 District 36. Over the years, I've worked closely with 25 Senator Meek, she is one of the hardest-working Senators I DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 have known. I observed her passion while representing our 2 community, she saw a need to inform the community of how to 3 deal with racial profiling and along with the City of Miami 4 police and the Miami-Dade police, she hosted workshops in 5 our community on driving while blind.</p> <p>6 And during a voter's registration campaign in 1996, 7 our Senator, he noticed there was a enormous amount of his 8 constituents that had their civil rights revoked. In 9 response, he began hosting workshops to assist them with 10 applying to have their civil rights restored. A number of 11 those individuals and their families reside in Brownsville, 12 Liberty City, Opa Locka, Carol City, North Miami, Little 13 Haiti and Alapattah.</p> <p>14 I understand that the eastern district needs to be 15 expanded and if the Senate District 36 is expanded, it 16 should include more of North Miami and North Miami Beach.</p> <p>17 Mr. Chairman, members of this committee, I want to 18 make sure that these individuals will continue to have a 19 voice on the state level. I want to make sure someone like 20 Senator Meek to make sure that these individuals have the 21 right to vote again. And please keep in mind that District 22 17, our Congressman, she has done so much from south to the 23 north. We want to keep her. So please, Mr. Chairman, and 24 the rest of you, we are not asking for too much.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thirty seconds. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 African-American studies at school through textbooks and a 2 mandated curriculum because of our work with State 3 Representative Fredrica Wilson in District 104.</p> <p>4 Representative Wilson has organized seminars and 5 implemented a program to develop a better communication 6 with young African-American boys and Hispanic boys. She's 7 developed programs to put them with police officers, okay? 8 And guess what, Dade County's crime has dropped and that's 9 no accident. It's because of programs like that.</p> <p>10 And when you talk about the 5,000 role models' project 11 that Representative Wilson in District 104 has put 12 together, my son is a member of that project and there are 13 things that he has acquired in that project that is going 14 to help him be a well productive citizen in the State of 15 Florida.</p> <p>16 The programs that Representative Wilson has put 17 together have helped low-income families with repairing 18 their homes and helped them to enhance the community with 19 these repairs. The community-based organization of network 20 programs have brought other community-based organizations 21 together so that they would understand from one another 22 what is going on in each other's communities. We 23 appreciate that because it brings us together as a cohesive 24 group.</p> <p>25 Cancer prevention projects were put into place, okay? DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 MS. PERSON: Please do what we ask you to do and thank 2 you and God bless America.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 24? Twenty-four.</p> <p>4 MS. DOZIER-WASHINGTON: Good evening, Mr. Chair, 5 members of the committee, my name is Patrenia 6 Dozier-Washington and I'm second vice-president of the 7 Biscayne Garden Civic Association that houses approximately 8 5,000 households. A large portion of these home owners are 9 in District 104 of the Florida House, District 36 of the 10 Florida Senate and District 17 of the U.S. Congress.</p> <p>11 I'm very grateful to be able to voice my concerns 12 before you this evening. I hope that your main focus and 13 your actions will be driven by fairness. I am aware that 14 one party controls the Legislature and the Governorship of 15 the State of Florida; however, I do hope that you will 16 exercise a nonpartisan view when it comes to the needs of 17 all of the people.</p> <p>18 I stand before you this evening pleading that you do 19 not dismantle our existing districts. We have developed a 20 sense of unity in this community and we want to stay united 21 as a group of people sharing common concerns. Our 22 representatives in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. have 23 worked very closely with us to bring about awareness 24 programs that help develop and help our children as well as 25 the community as a whole. Our children can now acquire DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 To help develop, to help ward off cancer cells in people's 2 bodies, yes. In short, this is a project that saves lives. 3 These are the kinds of things that we want to remain in our 4 community and they came from our Representatives and we 5 appreciate that, which is why we want to maintain our 6 status.</p> <p>7 A large portion of our district is also in the Federal 8 Empowerment Zone project, which allows us to make positive 9 changes with businesses. These businesses bring revenue 10 into our community and that's what we need to remain vital 11 and productive. We ask that you maintain our districts and 12 keep the boundary lines as they are so that our 13 representation will be heard.</p> <p>14 African-American people have waited for a very long 15 time to be heard. These districts that we have now have 16 done it and we would like to keep them that way. Thank you 17 so --</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 25.</p> <p>19 MS. DAISY BLACK: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, 20 honorable State Representatives, State Senators. It gives 21 me great pleasure to be here to represent my city, the 22 Village of Ed Portel. My name is Daisy Black and I am the 23 mayor. I'm here because my city is within the 24 Congressional District 17, Senate District 36, and House 25 District 108. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 With the leadership of Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, I 2 have always shared in a cohesive representation of my State 3 Representative and my State Senators. I mean, they work 4 like a team and that's what we are here from my village and 5 other small villages in that area to represent. We want to 6 see the teamwork continue and we can only do that if you 7 maintain the Congressional and House districts that are in 8 place now.</p> <p>9 I was born and raised in Overtown, I went to Booker T. 10 Washington High School. I am a proud Booker T. 11 Washingtonian. Thank you. I've also spent a lot of my 12 adult life in Liberty City, I still live and worship in 13 that area. I'm seen what carving up an area can do.</p> <p>14 When I lived in Overtown, they ran I-95 through 15 Overtown and Liberty City. There were some proud people in 16 Overtown and Liberty City. We had our own mecca, 17 economic-based and social, so when you did that -- not you, 18 I'm sorry, but when I-95 went through through that area, it 19 tore that up, we didn't have that, not until Congresswoman 20 Carrie Meek came back into office in '92 and with the 21 Congress that we started seeing some revitalizations occur 22 in that district.</p> <p>23 So, what we want to do is make sure that this 24 revitalization continues because if she's not there and her 25 team is not there, then there's no guarantee that we'll see</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 I'd like to close with an analogy here. My wife 2 drives a 27-year-old car, and I love my wife. Every other 3 day I make it a point to drive that car around the block 4 and make sure that everything is well. In the event that I 5 feel that something is wrong with that vehicle, I take it 6 to my favorite mechanic who I have used for the last 15 7 years. The reason why I do that is because after I take it 8 to him and I get it back, I can sleep, I can have peace of 9 mind and I can always tell myself, my wife will be safe in 10 that car.</p> <p>11 In the same token, I say to you, whenever our 12 constituents, whenever those who are recipients of the 13 services that we provide, whenever anybody in my community 14 has a concern or an issue that needs to be discussed, I 15 always go to my favorite mechanic shop, and of course, to 16 my favorite mechanic, Congresswoman Carrie Meek.</p> <p>17 I have never come or called that office and never got 18 a resolve or a response, and it is because of that, every 19 time I have issues in my community and the clients that I 20 serve, I can always refer them or call Congresswoman Carrie 21 Meek's office and go home knowing that there will be a 22 resolve. Thank you.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 27, Number 28.</p> <p>24 MS. LaFRANCE: Good afternoon, Chairman, and members 25 of the committee. My name is Merdochey LaFrance and I'm 19</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 all of the things that she's started to continue. I know 2 that one of her favorite things is to say that, you know, 3 service is the price you pay for the space you occupy.</p> <p>4 We're all here to provide a service, we're asking that 5 you continue that service for us. We don't want to see 6 another I-95 in the guise of redistricting come through our 7 neighborhoods and tear it up.</p> <p>8 So again, we urge you to continue to keep the 9 districts that we have now. Maintain them and we will do a 10 good service for you. Thank you.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty-six, Number 26.</p> <p>12 MR. TRINIDAD: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members 13 of the committee, my name is Bennie Trinidad and I'm the 14 administrator of Nanay, Inc., which is a grassroots 15 organization, a nonprofit organization that provides 16 supportive services for both the elders and the youths in 17 the Congressional District 17.</p> <p>18 I had a speech prepared but I'm not going to read it. 19 After hearing all of those praises and comments and please, 20 to keep the congressional district intact, I would just 21 like to say that our organization as well as the recipients 22 of the services that we provide, as well also as the Asian 23 community that I represent would like to appeal to all of 24 you and say, please do not divide Congressional District 25 Number 17.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 years of age and I currently attend Florida International 2 University. It is more than a pleasure for me to be here 3 with other similar voices for an occasion as deserving as 4 this one. I urge you to listen to the voices and concerns 5 of the community of Congressional District 17 and Senate 6 District 36, who will be affected by the lines that may 7 soon be drawn.</p> <p>8 I ask that you consider what is best for our community 9 and not what will suffice or fulfill a political agenda. 10 Our communities are primarily concerned with minority and 11 urban issues. This is not because we want to be partial 12 towards a particular people, this is due to a community 13 whose predominant makeup is that of minorities. Our 14 district should most definitely remain unchanged because 15 our communities' interest and concerns are being voiced in 16 Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.</p> <p>17 Our legislators understand the needs of our community. 18 State Representative Wilson serves on our school board and 19 implemented the 500, now 5,000 Role Models of Excellence 20 program. Senator Meek is a -- I'm sorry -- is a tireless 21 advocate for our community. I have benefited directly from 22 Senator Meek's tireless devotion to our community.</p> <p>23 In March of this year, as a senior and student 24 government president at North Miami Senior High School, I 25 had a privilege of attending a student leaders' trip which</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 Senator Meek organized and sponsors. The week I spent in 2 Tallahassee was a wonderful experience for me. I was able 3 to give a testimony in support of Senator Meek's bill to 4 investigate racial profiling incidence.</p> <p>5 After my testimony, the committee unanimously approved 6 the bill. The bill will need to go before two or three or 7 even four more committees before it is passed. But the 8 point I'm trying to make is this, I was given that 9 wonderful opportunity, but when lines are drawn and 10 communities are divided think about the many driven, young 11 students who that opportunity has now been revoked from.</p> <p>12 Our legislators care about our community and when 13 lines are drawn, can you assure that our best interests 14 will continue to be fairly represented? Our legislators 15 are fulfilling our needs, do you really want to risk the 16 communities' well-being by drawing lines unfairly? 17 Consider this, united our community stands, but divided 18 unfairly, our community will definitely fall. Thank you 19 for your time.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 29.</p> <p>21 MS. VELAZQUEZ: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, 22 my name is Nilsa Velazquez. I'm the president and CEO of 23 KIDCO Child Care is a nonprofit corporation. We provide 24 child care services to the low economic community children. 25 We have been in the Windwood community for 25 years and DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 Congresswoman Carrie Meek knows who we are and supports 2 what we do for the community. We need a strong voice and 3 that strong voice is the voice of Congresswoman Carrie 4 Meek. Please assist us by maintaining our congressional 5 district configuration intact. Thank you.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 30. Number 30.</p> <p>7 REVEREND JACKSON: Mr. Chair, committee, my name is 8 Pastor Arthur Jackson, I give leadership to the New Shiloh 9 Baptist Church, 1350 Northwest 95th Street. I'm also the 10 moderator of the Florida East Coast Baptist Association, 11 and our district starts in Homestead and spans out to 12 Daytona Beach.</p> <p>13 In between those cities, 116 African-American churches 14 that I give leadership to, some half a million peoples are 15 in those districts. I am also the president of the 16 Moderator's Department for the State of Florida and our 17 convention. The vice-president of the Moderator's 18 Department of our national work.</p> <p>19 And I come down and I sound like a broken record. The 20 voice or sentiment of my people is that we are comfortable 21 with the districts as they are, our Senator, our 22 Representatives and of course, our Congresswoman has served 23 well. Since 1973, I have been in this community, and I 24 have seen it change, and I have seen the ups and downs in 25 this community. Most times when the lines are drawn my DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 during that time, we have provided quality child care to 2 those children.</p> <p>3 We are proud to be a nationally accredited center by 4 the National Association of the Early Childhood. We are 5 also a Gold Seal program and the reason why I mentioned 6 what we do is because we are what we are because of the 7 strong support of our Congressional -- Congresswoman Carrie 8 Meek, and also of the support that you Senators and 9 Representatives give to the state in order to provide early 10 childhood, quality early childhood services to the 11 children.</p> <p>12 When it comes to services, we see that we have a 13 strong advocate at the national level and that is Carrie 14 Meek, and at the state level we also assist. But mainly, 15 I'm here today to support, to maintain the congressional 16 district as it is now. With our current representative, 17 Carrie Meek, she listens to our needs and she takes action.</p> <p>18 She gives priority to education. She advocates for 19 the funding of our early childhood programs and not only 20 that, she also gets involved in the infrastructure and the 21 economic development of the Windwood community. She helped 22 seek \$5 million for the development of the Windwood Foreign 23 Trade Zone, so we are very fond of her for that.</p> <p>24 We need to maintain our personal relationship with our 25 Congresswoman Representative who is a people person. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 peoples are left out, but I come by to stand not only as a 2 representative of God but as a citizen of this United 3 States and also a citizen of Dade County.</p> <p>4 My children go to school here in this county, my wife 5 is a past schoolteacher, my son teaches school, my 6 daughter-in-law. We have added a lot, we have contributed 7 a lot to this community and we have gained a lot of ground 8 and I would, for the sake of my people, and the sake of 9 humanity, if you will take another look at this 10 redistricting as we move forward.</p> <p>11 Now, I am aware of the fact that progress brings 12 changes, but changes do not always bring progress, so from 13 all of us to all of you, God bless you. Thank you.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thirty-one.</p> <p>15 MS. SICARD: Good evening, Chairman, and members of 16 the committee. My name is Flude Sicard, president of the 17 Women's Alliance of Miami-Dade and Broward. I bring before 18 you today the testimony on behalf of the Haitian-American 19 community. During the Census 2000 period, I was a member 20 of the Miami-Dade County Committee and I had the 21 opportunity to experience firsthand how the census process 22 was done.</p> <p>23 I found out how easily one can be counted or not be 24 counted. Many activists in the Haitian community have gone 25 on radio programs, TV shows, they've even walked door to DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 door to ensure that the population in the Haitian community 2 was counted. We also tried to educate people on the 3 importance of the census, why they should ensure that when 4 people come and knock on their door, open the door, and let 5 the representatives assist them in filling out the forms. 6 It turned out that after a while, we did -- we did an 7 evaluation on the radio to find out how many people were 8 counted and who was not counted. Many people called at 9 that time to say -- many families called to say they were 10 not counted, they did not receive the forms and no one 11 showed up at their door. At this point, several people 12 went out and tried to get these people counted, we went 13 to -- we called Tallahassee and a 1-800 number was given to 14 them to call. 15 That number, the people on the other line, on the 16 other side of the number would speak English or Spanish, no 17 one there could speak Creole. As a result, these families 18 were not counted. We are talking thousands of people who 19 were not counted during the Census 2000. 20 As a result, today, I look at the result of the Census 21 2000 today and feel really frustrated with the outcome 22 knowing that these people were not counted; our children 23 were not counted, African-American children of Haitian 24 descent, they were not, counted meaning the census 2000 25 result is not accurate. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 So, I'm asking you, members of the committee, and, 2 Chairman, to preserve District 108 to either extend it, but 3 not to divide it. And the African-American community, 4 we -- we -- we -- we -- 5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Your time has expired. If you'd like 6 to give us that written statement, that would be great. 7 Thank you. Number 32, is that right? Go ahead. Go ahead. 8 MS. GULLGY: My name is Cheree Gullgy and I would like 9 to read a statement from Commissioner Betty Ferguson, 10 Miami-Dade County, District 1. 11 Blacks in Miami-Dade County want to be represented by 12 officials they can hold accountable. There's a great sense 13 of fear in the community after the serious undercount of 14 blacks by the 2000 Census count that blacks will get less 15 representation in the State of Florida than they deserve. 16 As to the undercount, the fact that many of our votes were 17 not counted at all in the last presidential election, and 18 you can understand the fear that government is not looking 19 out for the interests of blacks. 20 It is more important than ever before that blacks are 21 able to elect the candidates of their choice. Inadequate 22 social services, health care, housing, and public education 23 are just a few of the problems that we are struggling to 24 deal with in our community. 25 It is imperative that we are able to elect candidates DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 We are talking -- just because the census says it does 2 not mean it is the truth. Census 2000 -- the census is 3 again, if we historically, that's the entity which is 4 showing that the African-American community at 12 percent 5 of the population for the past 200 years or so, so we are 6 thinking the census as an entity, again, is not an 7 accurate -- they do not provide accurate statistics. When 8 they say African-American, you would see it does not -- 9 reflect the whole status of African-American descent 10 people. 11 The census will show the Spanish community having 12 triple, double or triple on one point, and then you would 13 see an increase in their white population but you would 14 never see an increase in the African-American population; 15 again, being in the community and being firsthand with the 16 population in Districts 108, 36, and 17, we know they have 17 been elected. 18 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds. 19 MS. SICARD: So, I come before you to tell you that, 20 based on everything that I've said, we need to keep 21 District 108 preserved the way it is or inclusive in any 22 way. Representative Withers had not started to work in the 23 community when he became a Representative, he was there 24 when we needed someone in Guantanamo, he's always been 25 there, and he's done some work on immigration issues. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 of our choice to represent us at the state and national 2 levels so that our voices are heard. Thank you for your 3 time. 4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 33. 5 MR. BRAZIL: I am number 33 and I'd like to say thank 6 you to Chairman Byrd and members of this committee as well 7 as Representative Fredricka Wilson and those responsible 8 for coordinating this historic event. 9 My name is Elvis Brazil and I am a registered voter in 10 a respective Congressional, Senate and House District of 11 17, 36, and 104. Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, Senator 12 Kendrick Meek and State House Representative Fredericka 13 Wilson are doing an awesome job of representing these 14 districts and I want to say publicly to them, keep up the 15 good work. 16 I am also a student fulfilling my initial requirements 17 toward my law degree at Miami-Dade Community College, North 18 Campus and currently, I serve as the student government 19 association's vice-president where the diverse student body 20 at Miami-Dade, they're quite concerned with the implication 21 that redistricting will have on the educational 22 opportunities and quality of education they can expect to 23 receive relative to the policies that will be forthcoming 24 after the redistricting process is completed. 25 Also, although this is not in my notes, I would be DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 remiss not the mention that I represent as well the Church 2 of God by Faith where my father is the pastor in Opa Locka 3 and I would be remiss in saying that. 4 And I take, and I believe that it is indeed an honor 5 to represent these bodies politic as I address this panel. 6 As you have sat and listened to those who have addressed 7 the panel before me, and probably you have already come to 8 the realization that those who have spoken before and those 9 who will come after me probably are in opposition of the 10 redistricting. And we wish to maintain the status quo. 11 You may feel and even believe that our opposition to 12 the current redistricting is a negating process, a negating 13 progress in denying growth; however, and lamentably so, 14 those in those communities which I have aforementioned have 15 seen and experienced firsthand the spasms of progress and 16 the pains of growth that have been proposed and enacted by 17 others outside of these communities. 18 All too many times have we been amongst the last to 19 bask in the rays of prosperity realizing progress, yet and 20 conversely, amongst the first to feel the victimization of 21 flaws from changes that were not attributable to our own 22 doing. 23 I wish to call your attention to a few recent issues, 24 that have been proposed to better serve the citizenry but 25 and unfortunately, blacks and other minorities in those DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 more, but my question is why invent the wheel, reinvent the 2 wheel, it's working. 3 Right now, you can look at it from the aspect of 4 Florida or we can look at it from the aspect of Miami. 5 Miami has some serious issues at hand and we don't need to 6 waste any time with redistricting, that's what we are 7 doing, we're wasting time, we are spinning the wheels of 8 time for no purpose. 9 Right now in Miami, we have an AIDS epidemic, nobody 10 is talking about it. We have unemployment, no one is 11 talking about it. And most of all, let's just speak of the 12 disgraceful way that we deal with the Haitians. 13 Now, I am disturbed. I don't look at the news anymore 14 because of what happened September the 11th in New York, I 15 don't look at it because it's painful as an American and as 16 an American soldier, it's very painful to me. 17 I don't want to waste time here in Miami because of 18 the simple fact that if we start redistricting and we bring 19 political strikes here in this town, in Miami, you know, 20 who is going to be accountable for the results? 21 Affirmative action was totally dismantled. One Florida, 22 One Initiative, it is not working. No one is talking about 23 it. Let's take that time and fix some of these real 24 problems. 25 Right now, I would invite anyone here on this DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 communities have suffered tremendously as a result of their 2 application. 3 The first example of this victimization is one that 4 you are probably all aware of and is occurring even right 5 now. Nationally, as you may be aware, affirmative action, 6 and affirmative action policies, relative and specific to 7 college admission which were means for redressing the many 8 years of past and -- 9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thirty seconds. 10 MR. BRAZIL: Okay, sir. I'll skip to my closing. In 11 closing, we would like to say this, that right now, we have 12 a voice, and according to the Declaration of Independence 13 and our Constitution, those voices are allowed to those 14 individuals. We ask that you maintain those districts so 15 that we can maintain our voice. Thank you and God bless 16 America. 17 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. If you would like to 18 submit your notes, please feel free to do so. Thirty-four, 19 34? Welcome. 20 MR. HALL: Good evening, Honorable Chair, and 21 committee members. My name is Kenneth Hall and I'm 22 speaking on the behalf of myself and the other citizens 23 here in Miami of African descent. 24 As the lines lay now in the districts here in Miami 25 maybe we have expanded to the point that we need to add DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 committee to get on your knees and pray to God and ask 2 them, could you walk in my shoes for one day here in Miami. 3 See, the truth of it is, I'm 42 years old, I don't have 4 anywhere else to run, Miami is my home by birth, okay? And 5 if you look through the eyes of a black man at the 6 situation here in Miami, it is really fearful because who 7 is truly the minority here, who is really the minority 8 here? 9 We have people calling themselves minority and they 10 are not even close to being a minority. You said that you 11 have 2.3 million blacks here in the State of Florida and 12 2.7 million Hispanics here in the State of Florida, but you 13 are looking at 2.3 million blacks over the State of Florida 14 and you are looking at 2.7 million Hispanics here in Miami. 15 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thirty seconds, 30 seconds. 16 MR. HALL: Now, let's say something and create the 17 right atmosphere. I love my Hispanic culture, I love my 18 Hispanic family, but what I'm saying is, let's get away 19 from drawing lines that divide people. Let's build America 20 the way America should be so that when we all fly the 21 American flag, we're all proud, and we're all representing 22 Americans. 23 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, sir. 24 MR. HALL: You-all have a good night. 25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 35. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 MS. SALERMAN: Good afternoon. My name is Sofia 2 Salerman and I first want to show my support for the 3 statement of fairness, which I understand you have already 4 in your possession from previous, okay? 5 I'm going to speak on Miami-Dade's behalf, not on 6 Miami, but on Miami-Dade's behalf. Miami-Dade happens to 7 be one of -- is the biggest district. We have the biggest 8 budget, we give the biggest revenue. We have, you know, we 9 are very diversified, we have all types, all sources, the 10 world in different countries looks at Miami-Dade for trade, 11 for business, for a lot of entities. 12 The importance of Miami-Dade throughout the State of 13 Florida is essential in many ways, monetarily, diversified, 14 we cannot -- what I'm asking is that we do not take 15 anything from our district, anything we need more to our 16 district because of this tremendous, different aspects we 17 have and we make a difference on. 18 And I want you to please look at this, look at the 19 importance of Miami-Dade and consider that as part of your 20 districting. Thank you. 21 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thirty-six. 22 MS. SUMNER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairperson, members 23 of the committee. My name is Albena Sumner, I'm the 24 president of the Allapattah Home Owners Association, I 25 reside in Congressional District 17, my Congresswoman is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 to get sewers, we also managed to get sidewalks, we also 2 achieved drainage systems. We also were able to do other 3 things that other communities had long enjoyed. 4 We've heard the borders of this country are open, they 5 are open to everybody but those who look like me. I do, 6 with deepest sympathy on the Haitian community, have 7 sympathy for them because they are turned away at every 8 stop, whether they are at the sea or on land. As you can 9 see, they look like me. 10 Every federal, state, and local office is at stake 11 here, it is not just our house in the immediate area, it's 12 everything. It is important for us to know our community 13 leaders, it is important for us to know that they just 14 don't come out during election time, but we often see them 15 at our little community meetings, we see them in the stores 16 and we know them by name, and that makes us feel like we 17 are truly a part of a special community. 18 We ask, what are we demanding? Do we dare ask, do we 19 dare demand? We are demanding as a lifelong citizen of 20 this United States that you take my vote and our vote 21 wisely. We ask you, do not dilute it. You see, ideally, 22 ideally make our vote count, that one vote fairly and 23 wisely. Thank you. 24 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thirty-eight, 38. 25 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 Carrie T. Meek, Senate District 40. My State Senator is 2 Daryl Jones, state District 109. My Representative is 3 Dorothy Mindingall. 4 I am here today simply to state on behalf of my 5 organization, my family, and the members of my association 6 that we are -- we do not want our district lines redrawn. 7 We have sent you the best and the brightest that we have to 8 offer; they represent the best among us and they're there 9 to speak for us. They have informed us, they have made us 10 a more intelligent electorate and quite frankly, we don't 11 need to have those lines redrawn. Thank you. 12 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 37, 37, 37? 13 MS. KING: Good evening, Chairperson, and committee. 14 I want to thank you for being here tonight, but most of 15 all, I want to thank those of us who attended. Give 16 yourselves a hand, please. 17 It's very important in our community that we do indeed 18 come out. My name is Audrey King and I am a member of the 19 Miami-Dade, North Dade Community Council Three. 20 An example of our representation from our area, 21 previously we had Representatives we thought from our area. 22 Unfortunately for us, we found out different because 23 immediately when we had Representatives who look like us as 24 part of Congress, as a part of the State Representatives 25 and as a part of the local government, we somehow managed</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 good evening and welcome to my county, Miami-Dade County, 2 Florida. I'm here to represent myself as a long-time 3 Miami-Dade county resident. I am an American of Haitian 4 African-American descent. Whatever that makes me, that's 5 what I am. 6 I would like to commend you, first of all, for 7 bringing this process, to bring it up to a new high in 8 fairness. And I'm here to speak, second of all, as a 9 vice-chairman of the Miami-Dade County Republican party. I 10 am pleased to be here to ask you for your very important 11 commitment in preserving the gains that the 12 African-American community has made during the last decade. 13 After going for more than a hundred years without any 14 representation at a congressional level at Washington, 15 D.C., we now have three African-Americans in Congress from 16 the State of Florida. You cannot turn back the clock and 17 dilute our vote and strength. I am here to ask for your 18 firm guarantee that you will not reduce or dilute the 19 African-American voting strength in Florida, particularly 20 here in South Florida. We also ask you for a guarantee for 21 the Senate and House seats districts as well. 22 Remember ten years ago, we fight Democratic majority 23 plans, to only give us a limited ability to elect 24 candidates of our choice. It wasn't until the minority 25 part, Republican part, for majority parts, and NAACP and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 individual legislators, like Brown, Daryl Jones and Jim 2 Hagler (phonetic) that our community got the voice in 3 government that we deserved.</p> <p>4 And they have to go to court to give us our 5 representation and our rights. The elected Democratic 6 majority refused to recognize our legitimate and deserved 7 levels of representation for more than a hundred years, and 8 especially in the last ten years.</p> <p>9 All African-Americans are watching you to see if you 10 will do a better job this time. We encourage you to keep 11 all the districts which encompass African-American 12 communities' interests from being split or diluted. If 13 there are any other minority areas that have grown since of 14 the Haitian-American community, we encourage you to 15 strongly look at keeping them together. To do anything 16 less would be discriminatory in intent and act.</p> <p>17 Thank you very much for being here and I hope that you 18 will do the right thing.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 39 has withdrawn. Number 40. 20 Number 40. Number 41.</p> <p>21 MR. DUE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and friends, 22 my name is John Due. I live at 19620 Bellaire Drive, I am 23 the Associate General Counsel for the NAACP for education, 24 and I am here on behalf of my community and I am here on 25 behalf of the poor.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 contiguity, compactness.</p> <p>2 I will say this, although the gerrymandering is not as 3 bad as some of the congressional districts that we have 4 seen; however, we have already indicated that there is a 5 community of interest among all of the communities in this 6 district, North, Central and South Dade.</p> <p>7 One other factor other than race should be considered. 8 The areas that she represents are those areas which are 9 impacted by the economically disadvantaged and she has been 10 a representative of the poor throughout her career. North 11 Dade on behalf of the Haitian community, she protected the 12 right of Haitian children that were in Guantanamo. In 13 central Dade, we had people here from OTEC who are being 14 impacted by the justification process as public housing is 15 being transformed.</p> <p>16 And, of course, in South Dade, I don't need to tell 17 you what her role was in Andrew. So, I'm telling you, my 18 friends, we have a lot of people in these areas that she 19 represents, are very anxious.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty seconds.</p> <p>21 MR. DUE: We need to have that structure maintained to 22 make sure that the people, persons that follow her, have 23 the same commitment. As Ball and Bernstein (phonetic) 24 says, let's keep hope alive. Thank you.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 42, 42. Number 43. Number 44.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 We need to think of objective reasons why we want to 2 maintain, and why I'm advocating that we maintain, the 17th 3 Congressional District. My family, and my wife's family, 4 have been friends of the Meek family for two generations, 5 but suppose President Bush appoints Congresswoman Meek 6 tomorrow to a position that will take her away from her 7 position in Congress, I say that we still need to maintain 8 the district as it is and I have certain credentials to 9 indicate the reasons for that. Yes, being a former intern 10 with the Board of Education project out of Atlanta, 11 Georgia, I interviewed Mickey Shreibner (phonetic) two 12 weeks before he was killed in Mississippi, so I'm very 13 familiar with the terroristic actions that had taken place 14 to deny black people the right to vote.</p> <p>15 I'm also familiar with Florida's role, maybe not 16 terroristic, however covert means that are still being used 17 to impair the vote as Commissioner Ferguson's aide has 18 indicated.</p> <p>19 You need to read Florida Politics by V.O. Key, Jr. to 20 talk about how Florida has played its role. The standards 21 that we need to look to are those standards that has come 22 out of Shaw versus Reno and we need to look to Justice 23 O'Connor who has indicated she doesn't want to be sitting 24 on the Supreme Court to maintain black homelands; however, 25 there are certain criteria that we need to look at,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 MS. GREGORY: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and 2 Representatives. My name is Willie Mae Gregory, I am a 3 senior citizen and a day care worker. You might call it a 4 day care worker, but I take care of my mother, who is ill. 5 I take care of her in my home, she is just like a baby now, 6 but before voting started here in Florida, she was able to 7 vote and her vote was counted and this is the way I know 8 myself, I vote and I hope my vote be counted.</p> <p>9 If you listen to me today, please remember to keep our 10 district as it is.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 45, 45.</p> <p>12 MS. TOWNSEND: Hello, Mr. Chairman, and members of the 13 committee, welcome to Miami-Dade County. My name is 14 Dorothy Townsend and I am the executive director for the 15 South Florida Jobs with Justice. I reside in both District 16 36, Senate District 36, and the 17th Congressional 17 District. My Senator and Congresswoman fight every day to 18 ensure fair representation for working families throughout 19 their district.</p> <p>20 The workers in these districts have many specific 21 needs, social services from the state, federal and 22 government issues, citizenship, immigration issues, and 23 many health care service issues.</p> <p>24 And our Representatives represent us very well in all 25 aspects of the needs of our community. It is very</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 important to maintain both of these districts as they exist 2 today. However, to address any undercount that may exist 3 in the affected areas of the city of North Miami and parts 4 of North Dade from Northern High School towards the county 5 line road, our neighborhoods of similar interests and 6 cultural diversities, and if you are going to do anything 7 within these districts, I would ask that you expand but do 8 not take anything away from these districts. Thank you. 9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Forty-six, 46, 47, 47, and 49. Okay, 10 would 48 and 49 come on up to the front -- maybe 48 can 11 come on up to the front and be ready? This is 47? All 12 right, welcome. 13 MR. SIMS: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and to the 14 committee, I am here today, I am the Reverend Willy Sims, I 15 am the director of the Black Affairs Advisory Board for 16 Miami-Dade County. I am also a member of the community 17 relations board staff. I am the individual that is called 18 upon whenever there are problems in this community, when 19 our community is disrupted, I am the one out there leading 20 the charge, putting my life on the line to bring this 21 community back together. 22 This committee can help me by doing the right thing. 23 By understanding that in America, that everyone loves to 24 see someone that looks like them, representing them; and a 25 lot of people have stood here this afternoon and attempted DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 talking about those zip codes. 2 I need somebody that looks like me. Thank you and God 3 bless you and America. 4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 48, Number 48, Number 49? 5 MS. HILL: Good evening, it is a pleasure for me to be 6 here this afternoon to really elaborate about two facts and 7 the problems not only in Dade County, not only in the city, 8 but the whole nation. 9 I am the founder of the policies and the laws and the 10 funding coming out of Washington, D.C, on policies and laws 11 from 1962, 1967, it's very well documented, 12 I'm well documented in the United States code books. 13 I haven't heard this here this afternoon, we were 14 talking about a lot of political propaganda, diverted, 15 circumvented and plain interference of these laws, which is 16 not benefiting the poor as these laws were designed to 17 reach. When it comes through these states and it comes 18 through to us, the poor, I know you want to know who I 19 represent, every poor person here, not only in Dade County, 20 but throughout the nation. I'm the founder of CAA, I'm the 21 founder of Economic Opportunity Action amendment, I'm the 22 founder of Head Start, I'm the founder of all of it, all of 23 these policies and laws, which have been diverted and 24 interfered with, and it's time to cut out the political 25 rhetoric, and get on track. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 to be as eloquent as possible, but I pride myself in 2 telling it like it, I-S, is. 3 I leave the eloquence to all of the others, but I want 4 to tell you that I have two daughters, Veronda Sims is 24 5 and Randy, who is 7, and I would like to see both of them 6 to see someone like Congresswoman Meeks and all of those 7 others, 22, that represent the Black Caucus, people that 8 look like them that they have a chance one day to be. 9 And I know, I stand here and ask you, like others, not 10 to divide our districts, but I stand for a different 11 reason. My reason that I want to close with, that you 12 probably will never like me the next time you see me, but I 13 really don't care. I tell young people all of the time it 14 is good for me to see people that look like me because I 15 have never seen a dog teaching barking lessons -- I mean, a 16 cat teaching barking lessons at an all-dog school. And I 17 have never seen a cat -- a dog teaching tree-climbing 18 lessons at an all-cat school. 19 I need somebody that looks like me that I can talk to, 20 that when I talk about Overtown, they don't need a map. 21 That when I talk about Northwestern, they don't ask where, 22 that when I talk about my street needs paving, they don't 23 ask why, when I talk about crime in the cities, when I talk 24 about the district where AIDS is the highest in all of the 25 State of Florida and all of the nation, they know where I'm DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 I'd like to know how it got off track. It is so, to 2 my knowledge, thanks to Ms. Carrie Meek, it's a picture 3 here where she was brought into EOPI from my efforts to 4 help train the team to get diplomas. 5 And it's so good to know that she represents me, the 6 founder, and we are going to have to straighten up, sir. 7 You are legislative bodies and we do have laws here and 8 it's on the books. I have been registered at the State of 9 Florida and this is largely to establish a regional office 10 in Dade County, my home, where I graduated from, reared up 11 from and first of all, I am a natural born Floridian and I 12 am a product of Overtown. And I also am a product of ten 13 children that were reared up and graduated from Booker T. 14 Washington High School. 15 And so, I want you to know that we are going to have 16 to get on track. You can get anything, you can create 17 anything from this at these local levels, but because this 18 is the local approach, and it's not going to work until we 19 get the regional office established and call Mary 20 (inaudible) in to finish what I started from the White 21 House and then it will reach the poor. 22 We do not care about redistricting, this is more 23 important than your districting; we have poor people here 24 are suffering, they are not getting services, they are not 25 getting anything. I have \$4.0 million here, it never DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 reached me or the poor. I am the one who got the riot 2 money in here, it never reached us. Well, why is it that 3 everybody else gets credit and we are suffering like this, 4 and not benefitting from these laws that I founded? 5 Sir, I am the founder, and I'm the one who brought it 6 in the State of Florida and please take your hands off of 7 Dade County, or 69, you know what I'm talking about. 8 And when I give this to people that are in power here 9 as they claim, they fall on their deaf ears, they get their 10 own programs, they get their own moneys diverted and 11 lobbied and labored. This is going to have to stop. We're 12 going to have to do it under statutory law. 13 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty seconds. 14 MS. HILL: And I'm asking you today, get on track, 15 Legislators, this is a legislative matter and I thank you. 16 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 50. Number 50. 17 MS. KILLINGS: I am a home owner and a retiree. I 18 live in Dade County housing 18 years and I moved out and I 19 am a home buyer now since 1990, so I would like to see 20 things kind of remain the way we are in District 2 and 21 don't move us around because this is a political party 22 district so eager -- is this why the district is so eager 23 to move people around to other areas where they could meet 24 -- rule people out, phase them out where they'll have other 25 people that outnumber us? DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 tax credit legislation that brought employers into our 2 area. With other cities having similar challenges, such as 3 El Portel, City of Miami, North Miami, we must keep Opa 4 Locka in District 36. Thank you. 5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Fifty-two. 6 MR. CANTA: Mr. Chairman, members of the redistricting 7 committee, ladies and gentlemen, good evening. I am David 8 Canta, chairman of the board of directors of the Florida 9 Golden Dreamers Association located at 9823 Northeast Miami 10 Shores, Florida. 11 I come from the scattered but numerous fast-growing 12 Filipino-American and Asian communities. Our community is 13 composed mostly of doctors and nurses, are located within 14 the length and breath of the 17th Congressional District. 15 For on this site are hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes 16 where they work. Likewise, in this areas are similar crew 17 men working on different coastal highways. They locate in 18 these areas for they work in the Port of Miami. 19 These workers with H-I visas have different 20 immigration problems. The doctors and nurses in order to 21 maintain their working status must have to take and pass 22 the State board examination. Crewmen who were terminated 23 have the same problem. The crewmen, in order to be 24 employed, through the various agencies in the Philippines, 25 must have to put in enormous sums of money. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 We would like to remain in our district and we want to 2 keep District 17 the same as it is and we would just like 3 to see it the way it is and not break up our community, the 4 same way you did in 1965 when you brought the expressway 5 over town, who lost the property? Black people. 6 And it looks like to me that that's what they are 7 still trying to do again, but I just want to say that I 8 think the Census Bureau made a big mistake too, the people 9 was not counted because last week we were at a meeting that 10 said that it was only 88,000 people in Liberty City and I 11 know that's not true, so they need to relook it over again 12 and leave our community alone and let people go keep their 13 own and they can fix it up, tear it down, do whatever they 14 want to, and leave ours the way it is, because I'm -- I'm a 15 home owner and I want to stay that way. So thank you. 16 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 51. 17 MR. ROBINSON: Good evening, Chairman, members of the 18 committee, my name is Hansel Robinson, and I am a resident 19 of Senate District 36. I am involved in Opa Locka, the 20 front porch as a community liaison. It is important that 21 we keep our current representation for incorporated and 22 unincorporated Opa Locka. 23 Our Senator has brought economic initiatives such as 24 water and sewer improvement, public works improvements to 25 our city. Four years ago, he sponsored the high crime area DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 To raise the needed amount, those who had no 2 sufficient funds, had to either mortgage or sell any 3 disposable property, but particularly even the only 4 treasured official land that they own. Some unscrupulous, 5 exploiting agencies cunningly and suddenly, under ambiguous 6 terms prepared contracts that are too onerous or cloaked 7 with deceptive phrases, in order to take advantage of the 8 applicants. 9 Most of these workers after working for a month or so 10 found themselves jobless as the agencies terminated their 11 contracts. With these districts in a precarious and 12 despondent state, some found their way into the office of 13 Representative Meek, where they aired their grievances. 14 With their tales of woe, our empathizing Representative 15 took the cudgels for them and sponsored the Legal 16 Immigration and Family Act, which was signed into law by 17 President Clinton on December 21, 2000. These immigrant 18 workers who are through our representative airports were 19 able to find solutions to their immigration problems and 20 were given good jobs as well. 21 Personally, I was also extended a helping hand. After 22 working for more than 16 years with AARP, with good and 23 excellent performance and evaluations, when a new project 24 director took over under the guise of charity, she 25 inappropriately ordered my assignment to a host agency, a DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 demotion and a discriminatory act.</p> <p>2 Forced to litigate, I secured counsel from</p> <p>3 Congresswoman Carrie Meek, and with her invaluable</p> <p>4 assistance, I was able to pursue my course of action. Upon</p> <p>5 becoming aware that Florida has the highest number of</p> <p>6 HIV/AIDS among 44 states --</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: You have 30 seconds.</p> <p>8 MR. CANTA: -- Congresswoman Meek held an HIV Summit</p> <p>9 on July 28, 2001; effective solutions were evolved to</p> <p>10 combat this scourge. Without a dedicated public servant</p> <p>11 sensitive to the concerns of our communities be amply fair,</p> <p>12 just and nonpartisan exercise of its discretion in</p> <p>13 effecting the needed redistricting to the extent possible.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 52, 53.</p> <p>15 MS. McELROY: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and</p> <p>16 members of the committee, I appreciate this opportunity to</p> <p>17 speak to you this evening. I am Bess McElroy, president of</p> <p>18 PULSE, which stands for People United to Lead the Struggle</p> <p>19 for Equality. My organization represents some 57-plus</p> <p>20 churches, which is combined together represents citizens</p> <p>21 totaling more than 75,000. And these people live here in</p> <p>22 South Florida in District 17.</p> <p>23 I believe I echo the sentiments of these individuals</p> <p>24 for we share many of the same concerns, especially in the</p> <p>25 areas of social services and educational opportunities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 being overlooked and whose authority is being undermined.</p> <p>2 With all due respect, being documented on White House</p> <p>3 books, the concept of the EOPI, Head Start, New Day Care,</p> <p>4 Human Services and the Anti-poverty Program, Titus Hemrig</p> <p>5 Grant, revenue sharing, these benefits are not, I repeat</p> <p>6 are not, benefiting the poor as it was originally designed</p> <p>7 to do so.</p> <p>8 This is a demand for the extension of the economic</p> <p>9 opportunity at and beyond its present expiration date of</p> <p>10 June 30th, 1971, local government. And this is the law and</p> <p>11 it will be executed. You can hold us accountable for the</p> <p>12 services we can and will give. Thank you.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 55. Fifty-five.</p> <p>14 MR. JONES: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and</p> <p>15 distinguished panelists, my name is Brian Johnson,</p> <p>16 president of the Reconstructive Florida Memorial College</p> <p>17 Chapter of the NAACP. I bring to you this evening the</p> <p>18 concerns of the typically overlooked and disenfranchised</p> <p>19 minority youth of Miami-Dade County. More specifically, I</p> <p>20 bring with me a request of the Florida Memorial College</p> <p>21 student body, the request that you collectively do not</p> <p>22 remove from us our Congresswoman Carrie Meek.</p> <p>23 As you have heard this evening, Senator Meek has</p> <p>24 provided so many things to the aviation community and so</p> <p>25 many other local businesses, which have in turn created</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 Our Representative, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, and our</p> <p>2 other local Representatives, serve us and they serve us</p> <p>3 well, for they are familiar with the constituents in our</p> <p>4 community, they understand our needs and therefore, they</p> <p>5 work for the good of the people and, thus far, we have</p> <p>6 benefited greatly from their efforts.</p> <p>7 We ask that you do not make change for change sake, we</p> <p>8 realize that progress must be made. I hope that you will</p> <p>9 seriously consider the concerns that are being presented</p> <p>10 here to you today by the citizens and not needlessly redraw</p> <p>11 the lines. I believe that a fair process should be</p> <p>12 implemented and that process should include the will of the</p> <p>13 people.</p> <p>14 Right now, our district is drawn in such a way to</p> <p>15 effect the most effective representation that addresses the</p> <p>16 most important issues of concerns for the people in our</p> <p>17 community. In other words, nothing is broken and nothing</p> <p>18 needs fixing. I ask that you please do not change the</p> <p>19 present district lines. Thank you.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Fifty-four.</p> <p>21 MS. PETERKIN: Good evening. Hi, I am 23 years old, a</p> <p>22 mother of two, and a concerned citizen, and I am speaking</p> <p>23 on behalf of the Bumper Group and on behalf of all poor</p> <p>24 people regardless to race, creed or color. Also, a</p> <p>25 representative on behalf of Ms. Mary Hill whose efforts are</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 opportunities for us, i.e., scholarship money and part-time</p> <p>2 jobs, creating less need for student and parent loans</p> <p>3 allowing us to get out more quickly and become a greater</p> <p>4 service to the mainstream economy because we in turn incur</p> <p>5 less debt while obtaining this valuable education.</p> <p>6 We understand that adjustments have to be made, we</p> <p>7 only ask that this not be it. To take away our Senator</p> <p>8 could be considered the equivalent of taking candy away</p> <p>9 from a baby, it probably wouldn't be too hard, but why?</p> <p>10 The emotional and psychological effects of these</p> <p>11 seemingly vain zoning attempts of past and present still</p> <p>12 haunt our minds and by taking away our voice, you take away</p> <p>13 many of our hope. We have a lower crime rate in our</p> <p>14 community, not necessarily because our criminal justice</p> <p>15 system is effective in its attempt, but because of the help</p> <p>16 of the Meeks and the Wilsons and those in their corners.</p> <p>17 Economic opportunities leading to social and mental</p> <p>18 stability, ultimately creating stronger family values and a</p> <p>19 stronger community are now a reality.</p> <p>20 As a representative of my peers, I would rightly be</p> <p>21 considered inadequate to allow us to fall victim to</p> <p>22 contrived confusion, commonly termed politics. As</p> <p>23 individuals and as a committee, your purpose is to serve</p> <p>24 the people of the State of Florida, including</p> <p>25 African-Americans, Anglo-Americans, Hispanics,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 Haitian-Americans, and Oriental members of our communities. 2 This day, you have heard from representatives of each of 3 these cultures; therefore, I thank you in advance for 4 voting No on Florida redistricting, 2001. Thank you. 5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Fifty-six. 6 MR. JONES: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members of 7 the committee, my name is LeRoy Johnson, and I'm a student 8 here and I represent the NAACP on campus and as I speak to 9 you tonight, I speak to experience, from experience, 10 experience on redistricting. I'm from Louisiana. The 4th 11 Congressional District that was represented by Mr. Cleo 12 Fields; for those who don't know, as the youngest person to 13 serve in the Congress, at the age of 30, he authorized 14 legislation, establishing drug-free zones near campuses and 15 intercity economic development programs, and congressional 16 classrooms for elementary through secondary students, in 17 order for being the first of its kind, the concept about 18 leadership and self-esteem for understanding the 19 governmental progress which is so important. 20 In comparison to Mr. Fields, Congresswoman Meeks from 21 evidence and the trial tonight has been a pillar in her 22 community and she should maintain her current district for 23 the sake of the community. Thank you. 24 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 57. 25 MR. TISDAL: Mr. Chairman, and committee, I am a DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 map that we have prepared for you that the District has a 2 significant accumulation of perceived and actual 3 environmental impacts. 4 Unfortunately, this density of problem properties is 5 all too representative of the environmental inequity that 6 poorer communities have experienced in the past. This is 7 why I'm here tonight. Our role as independent assessors 8 and experts in the cleanup of contaminated communities is 9 greatly enhanced by the knowledge and experience, and 10 actions of Congresswoman Meek. 11 She is a strong advocate for addressing these concerns 12 and I feel that redistricting will expose the residents of 13 this community to a political arena in which these 14 significant priority issues will again be de-emphasized and 15 will negatively impact the inroads we have made towards 16 environmental justice. 17 Mr. Chair, within the geography boundary of the 17th 18 Congressional District are over 244 Brownfield properties 19 and an additional 144 perceived Brownfields. The variety 20 of contamination goes from inadvertent contamination, and 21 from deliberate contamination as a consequence of unwise 22 and careless industrial processes, is a major inhibitor to 23 economic revitalization. 24 Our efforts to initiate an economic cycle to remediate 25 these derelict and abandoned properties is in large part DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 resident of Dade County for some 45 years. I would just 2 like to reiterate some of the things that have been said 3 and keep the redistricting of District 17. Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Members, we will now take a 5 five-minute break. We will start back at 7:05. 6 (Brief break.) 7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, let's 8 resume and we'll begin with speaker Number 58. Number 58. 9 Speaker Number 58. Welcome to the public hearing. 10 DR. EBADIAN: Good evening, Mr. Chair, and committee 11 members, my name is Dr. Ebadian. I serve the committee as 12 the director of the Hemispheric Environmental Technology at 13 Florida International University. We perform environmental 14 services that assist our community and are helping the 15 community by ensuring a stable economic foundation for the 16 17th Congressional District. 17 The Center is a key player in performing environmental 18 assessments, developing remediation plans, and designing 19 information tools that assist in the improvement of the 20 environmental condition of the District. 21 Congresswoman Meek has been a strong proponent for an 22 efficient and effective cleanup of environmental insults 23 that have occurred in years past within the District. It 24 is evident from the widespread assessment Phase one and 25 Phase two that we have performed, and as illustrated by the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 aided by her representation continuity of the District. 2 Many of these areas are just now at the cusp of seeing some 3 redevelopment activity and much of the redevelopment 4 momentum is directly attributed to Congresswoman Meek. 5 She is a key player in directly funding for an 6 empowerment zone to Miami, she's assisted in ensuring 7 completion of the Poinciana project as well as a small 8 business resource for the community. Of course, she's 9 responsible for countless other projects -- 10 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thirty seconds. 11 DR. EBADIAN: -- that will improve and promote 12 economic revitalization in the District. I therefore urge 13 you to consider the essential fact that communities require 14 community leaders and Representatives which share the 15 experience and implement knowledge of those communities. I 16 believe we should maintain the district as currently 17 bounded and let the community retain its strongest advocate 18 and most effective voice. Thank you. 19 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 59. Fifty-nine. 20 MR. JONES: If we have learned anything from the last 21 election, it is that the right to vote means the right to 22 have one vote count, but count cannot mean simply the 23 counting of heads, it has to mean in the words of Justice 24 Brennan and Thornburg versus Jingles, a meaningful voice. 25 And this idea of a meaningful voice cannot simply be a DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 rule of law, I would argue that it has to be an article of 2 faith, a sacred principle that you follow as you go through 3 your process. 4 My name is Donald Jones. I'm a professor of law at 5 the University of Miami where I teach Constitutional Law 6 and I'm here on behalf of African-Americans and the poor 7 who live in south Dade and whether you talk about District 8 17, and I want to say that, I want to add my voice to those 9 who admire the great Congresswoman Carrie Meek, when you 10 talk about District 17 or when you talk about Senate 11 District 40, you are talking about a District which is not 12 only dense with African-Americans, but dense with poverty 13 and other problems, unemployment, Overtown, 68 percent, a 14 problem that's intimately related with our history of 15 racial block voting. 16 One judge described it this way, he said that when 17 whites tend to vote, they vote for whites, when Hispanics 18 vote they tend to vote for Hispanics, and when the whites 19 and Hispanics can't vote for each other, they tend to vote 20 against blacks. This is a federal judge commenting on the 21 history of racial block voting in Florida. 22 There is -- I can't give you a legal argument, but I 23 can give you two simple truths, one of them is this, there 24 is a relationship between political power of a minority and 25 economic power. When you maintain or increase minority DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 experience something close to rebirth. 2 We need to let that process continue. We need to 3 continue to try to give a meaningful voice to -- to groups 4 which were previously disenfranchised and to tamper with 5 that democratic formula which has begun to work, and begun 6 to work so marvelously with such magic would be to tamper 7 with hope. 8 It seems to me that if -- 9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thirty seconds. 10 MR. JONES: -- having -- believing in a meaningful 11 voice is faith, then you are threatened with temptation, 12 the temptation of partisanship, the temptation of 13 colorblindness. I want to say that to do anything else but 14 to maintain or increase the political power of minorities 15 will be to be devious. 16 And I think that we're at a point in our history and 17 after all this has happened, particularly on September 18 11th, in which we can no longer think in partisan ways, we 19 can't think as Democrats, we can't think as Republicans, we 20 can only now think as Americans. Keep the faith. 21 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Sixty-one. 22 MR. LaFORTUNE: Good evening, committee. Residing at 23 13245 Avenue, Miami. I'm currently the chairman of the 24 HAGC Foundation. We advocate for Haitian empowerment of 25 Haitian nationals. We will come before this committee DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 representation, then that is the same or better than giving 2 a grant of money or funds. 3 Another simple truth, if the population in Miami -- in 4 Dade County has increased, the black population has 5 increased, that should lead, without crunching any numbers, 6 to an increase in the political power of minorities, not 7 the other way around. And if anything else happens, then I 8 think that simple truth will resonate in court. 9 Now, we should be able to go from simple truths to 10 simple justice. It seems to me that there may be many 11 areas in which we can be colorblind, but this is not one of 12 them. I think that -- what was it -- from Reconstruction 13 to 1992, African-Americans hadn't elected an congressman, 14 minorities, if we had to translate their conditions into a 15 song, it would be, my God, my God, I just can't see why 16 democracy remains for everybody but me. 17 We need to move from colorblindness to color 18 consciousness. I think as the wiser says, the problem of 19 the 20th century was the problem of the color line. Maybe 20 the problem with the 21st century is the problem of 21 colorblindness. But the problem is that we need to move 22 forward. A process began in 1992, a process in which hands 23 which were broken with powerlessness and despair began to 24 straighten themselves out, in which communities which were 25 wracked with crime and drugs began to straighten up and DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 today. Before I go further, I want to urge all of you the 2 need to maintain as the current district for commissioner 3 in District 17, Senate District 26 and House District 108. 4 I know personally all of those Representatives on a 5 personal level and also I know that they serve their 6 constituents very well. I want to stress as well the need 7 to unify the District 104 so that it becomes more compact 8 and provide for the, the same language, and similar 9 immigration status to elect a candidate of their own. 10 And two major arguments. First, criticism about the 11 Redistricting process as it relates to minorities and 12 community of interest. Two, does the Haitian community be 13 considered as a community of interest? Even though I have 14 lived in south Florida for the past 21 years, this is the 15 first time that I am privileged to participate in the 16 redistricting process. No reassurance from the state gave 17 consideration to my community. 18 For some reason, the power of Haitian, to keep that 19 process far away from the public scrutiny and away from 20 public participation. Request from a community should not 21 be conducted as or -- or exercise left to the discretion of 22 an individual. Specific res lags vague. It must be 23 partial, it must be fair and just for all. 24 In these debates, non-Hispanics must be provided with 25 represent their self-interest as long as discriminations is DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 full tilted. Some of their of the city wide act of 1965, 2 such as compactness, and sharing a set of common values and 3 interests. We the 2000 Census shows that the experience 4 for potential growling in the past ten years. Most of this 5 growth is attributed specifically to immigrants who chose 6 the great state of Florida to be their home for Miami-Dade 7 county, two out of three residents are foreign born. 8 Today to seize the occasion to make decisions so thatr 9 Miami-Dade can reflect -- 10 CHAIRMAN BYRD: You have 15 seconds -- 11 MR. LaFORTUNE: -- through diversity by putting 12 committees of interest. Mr. Chairman, give me 30 seconds 13 please. 14 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. If you would like to 15 submit your written text to the committee, that would be 16 fine. Would you like to do that? Thank you for coming 17 today. Number 62. 18 MR. CEREZO: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, 19 good evening and welcome to Miami. My name is Luis Cerezo 20 and I am director of the Miami Job Corps Center located in 21 the Carol City section of Miami-Dade County. 22 It is an honor for me to appear before this committee 23 this evening to talk about the wonderful work Congresswoman 24 Carrie Meek has done for the youth of Carol City and the 25 great State of Florida. It was through the initiative of DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 in our county. The dollar value to our community values at 2 over \$10 million annually. 3 The Miami Job Corps Center, which was possible through 4 Congresswoman Carrie Meek, also serves as a major meeting 5 facility for various community groups and organizations and 6 the Miami-Dade Police Academy Turnaround Program. 7 Congresswoman Meek does not only stop with the youth, she 8 also holds regular senior citizen townhall meetings in 9 which seniors come out to the Job Corps Centers to get 10 valuable information. 11 They get information about Social Security, Medicaid 12 benefits, hints on how to stay safe and other information 13 critical to the life of the senior citizen. Congresswoman 14 Carrie Meek knows our community and she hears us out. We 15 have no problems meeting with her personally in the local 16 office or in Washington, D.C. 17 Every year, we are able to take our student government 18 representatives to Washington. She takes time out of her 19 busy schedule to meet with them, to introduce them to the 20 Constitution of the United States. The Congresswoman is 21 very dear to the Job Corps community and we need her 22 representation in Washington to keep this national program 23 strong, but more importantly, we need her here in District 24 17 to support Carroll City and the surrounding communities 25 which she represents. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 Congresswoman Meek that we were able to get not one, but 2 two Job Corps Centers here in our county, one of which is 3 in District 17. 4 The Job Corps Center in Carroll City has 109 employees 5 who provide training to over 450 youth annually. This 6 program, a national program that has been around for over 7 35 years, has proven that it justifies its cost, noting 8 that it returns about \$2 to society for every dollar spent. 9 If it were not for the initiative and support of 10 Congresswoman Carrie Meek, many of the at-risk youth living 11 in District 17 would not have an opportunity to get 12 valuable training; they would be on our streets unemployed 13 without an opportunity to secure the skills needed to get 14 and keep a job. 15 We, the people, living and/or working in District 17 16 would like to keep Congresswoman Meek as our 17 Representative. She understands the needs of this 18 community and has been responsive. It is through her 19 efforts that over 80 percent of the graduates of the Miami 20 Job Corps are now employed. These young people are now 21 able to give back to the community by the dollars they 22 spend in the local businesses and volunteering in community 23 events. The fact that her initiatives were able to get not 24 one, but two job forces is commendable. 25 This has 102 throughout the United States and two here DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN BYRD: You have 30 seconds. 2 MR. CEREZO: We are asking that you consider keeping 3 District 17 as it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members 4 of the committee for your time. 5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 63, 63. 6 MS. PITTMAN: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and the 7 committee, my name is Amila Pittman. I am on the 8 Miami-Dade community council for Area 3, I reside in State 9 House 104 District, the Senate House 38, and in 10 Congressional District 17. 11 I represent community. I serve my neighborhood and 12 community in a variety of capacities such as the Hibiscus 13 Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Area 331 Miami-Dade County 14 Community Council board member and as a member for several 15 advisory boards and volunteer boards that focus on health, 16 environment, and education. 17 Professionally, I am a health care provider and very 18 familiar with health care disparity, just one of the many 19 legacies of discriminatory practices in the past. I come 20 before you today as a matter of my civic duty and 21 responsibility, in search of fundamental fairness, 22 requesting that you either dilute or reduce the voting 23 strength in Florida, that you maintain the State Senate and 24 State House Districts, and although the 2000 Census missed 25 200,000 in the great State of Florida with more than 44,000 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 from south Florida, that this redistricting committee and 2 process make provisions to leave no one behind or out of 3 the democratic process.</p> <p>4 This current administration and Legislature, although 5 not perfect is functional, effective, and has the desire 6 and capacity to serve, educate, recognize, address, and 7 provide for the unique educational, cultural, economic, 8 environmental, and civic needs of this community in ways 9 that have not been realized before.</p> <p>10 My presence before you is a testimony to that. Just 11 this year, we had an HIV summit to address the specific 12 health care needs of this community. We had 13 Representatives such as Representative Wilson who leads by 14 example, reaching out and crossing partisan, ethnic and 15 cultural lines for the common good of all people and 16 communities, for education, for the health and the welfare 17 of this community.</p> <p>18 The legacy of discriminatory practices permeates 19 generation and administration like a virus in a healthy 20 body. Although initially functional in appearance, if left 21 unattended, it eventually displays its true character of 22 destruction and ultimately death. From Jim Crow laws to 23 racial profiling and double standards and immigration laws, 24 it still exists today. Typically, it is realized in 25 disproportionate health disparities such as heart disease, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 process and outcome. Respect the integrity of our 2 environment, acknowledge established political boundaries, 3 support districts that are inherently functional.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you for appearing. If you would 5 like to submit your written statement, that would be great. 6 Number 64.</p> <p>7 MR. MAYS: Mr. Chairman, and committee members, my 8 name is Morris Mays, a resident of District 17 and an 9 employee of Miami-Dade County. She played a key role in 10 providing over \$100 million in federal assistance to help 11 rebuild Dade County after the devastation caused by 12 Hurricane Andrew and guided through Congress legislation to 13 improve Dade County's transit system, airport and seaport 14 to construct a new family and child care center in North 15 Miami-Dade County, to rebuild the Homestead Air Force 16 Reserve Base, and to fund at Miami-Dade County a community 17 college, one of the nation's most advanced aviation 18 training programs.</p> <p>19 In a speech to the International Union of Policemen on 20 July 21st, 1996 in Miami Beach, Congresswoman Carrie Meek 21 stated, "Until we all start to take responsibility, until 22 we do all we can to improve the character of our 23 communities, we will never break the cycle of 24 indifference."</p> <p>25 She went on to say, "We can make the greatest nation DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p> <p>1 cancer, diabetes and AIDS.</p> <p>2 Commercially, our urban communities suffer from 3 malignant decay due to benign neglect, a deficiency of 4 commercial blood, and the lack of a balanced diet of 5 economic development.</p> <p>6 Environmentally, our communities are subject to 7 relentless abuse through illegal dumping and excessive 8 zoning of environmentally toxic businesses. These result 9 in environment injustice in targeted zip codes. Because 10 South Florida prides itself in being the gateway to the 11 Americans, we are heavily inundated with many immigrants 12 who reside in our communities of color, such as District 13 104.</p> <p>14 Many of these individuals make up the 44,000 15 undercounts from this past year's census. Although we 16 pride ourselves in our diversity, it is a burden that 17 stresses every industry such as education, the public 18 school system, public transportation and roadways 19 available, employment, affordable housing, access to health 20 and the integrity of our environment.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty seconds.</p> <p>22 MS. PITTMAN: I ask that in your consideration and 23 deliberations that you apply objective criteria that will 24 preserve district codes such as District 104, prevent voter 25 dilution and other political strategies that manipulate the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p> <p>1 on God's earth, the safest nation on God's earth. America 2 may be slow to rise to a challenge, but our history has 3 shown that once we make up our minds to really do 4 something, nothing can stand in our way."</p> <p>5 Barry Cauffman, executive director of Common Cause in 6 Pennsylvania, was quoted in the Post Gazette, Harrisburg as 7 saying, "Redistricting is not supposed to be an incumbency 8 protection plan, what we want to do is encourage 9 competitive elections if the demographics dictate."</p> <p>10 The political scientists at the University of North 11 Carolina recently declared, "Whosoever sets up the 12 legislative districts for the 2002 election, who basically 13 sets up elections for the whole decade."</p> <p>14 Redistricting is simply the process in which district 15 lines are drawn. Reapportionment is a redistribution of 16 seats among political units such as the redistribution of 17 the 435 seats in the House of Representatives, among the 18 states after each decennial census. Redistricting always 19 occurs after reapportionment, but it may also occur because 20 of a population shifts which do not affect the number of 21 seats.</p> <p>22 It is a process which is vital to the parties, both of 23 which naturally seek to dominate the Legislature and 24 protect their incumbent legislators. If a party is able to 25 control the manner in which Representatives are elected, it DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 has a better chance of obtaining these goals. As a 2 recommendation to you, please take a look at two working 3 models for redistricting before you render a decision on 4 the area now represented by Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, 5 it is our system and the New Jersey system, both of which, 6 ours and New Jersey contain mechanisms which blunt but do 7 not eliminate partisan influence in redistricting. 8 CHAIRMAN BYRD: You have 20 seconds. 9 MR. MAYS: Both systems to different degrees 10 strengthen the hand of neutral redistricting criteria. 11 Perhaps the greatest common benefit of the two systems that 12 they prevent, the majority party from unfairly increasing 13 its existing advantage by manipulating district lines. I 14 hope this request is not too much to ask. Thank you. 15 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 65. Sixty-five, 16 66, 66. 17 MR. BROWN: Good evening, Senators, and 18 Representatives. My name is Brad Brown and I am the 19 president of the Miami-Dade branch of the NAACP. And I 20 also am a resident of District 17 and I'm ably represented 21 in the Florida Senate by Daryl Jones and in the House by Ed 22 Bullard. 23 When Congresswoman Carrie Meek entered Congress almost 24 ten years ago, many voters including myself felt that we 25 finally had someone who understood our concerns and shared DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 schools and the demographics of health concerns, both 2 individual community are much more common north and south 3 but not east and west, and the list can go on and on. 4 The membership of the Miami-Dade NAACP is concentrated 5 in her district. Membership in religious groups such as 6 the A.M.E. Church and the Seaboard Baptist Association do 7 likewise. Membership of community service organizations 8 such as the CK THIS King of Clubs and sororities and 9 fraternities such as the Alphas and HAAs are prevalent in 10 these areas and have a common concern to service in these 11 communities. 12 The NAACP is a nonpartisan organization whose 13 membership consists of individuals of all races and creeds 14 who are committed to the principles of achieving justice 15 and equality and results, not just an abstract principle, 16 and we do this by wanting to close the gap that now exists. 17 Nowhere are the needs in these areas greater than in 18 the district represented by Congresswoman Meek. 19 Maintaining the integrity of the current district will 20 ensure that the citizens of these areas will be able to be 21 represented by someone whom they believe can best represent 22 these common concerns. Splitting them into other areas 23 will result in other concerns and common interests becoming 24 paramount and will result in isolation and 25 disenfranchisement, exacerbating already stressed DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 our interests. Now, the threat of redistricting hangs like 2 an evil shadow over us. The question is twofold. In a new 3 district, even if Congresswoman Meek could be reelected 4 with the benefits of incumbency, would her replacement also 5 be someone who could represent our common interest and 6 would these changes result in current constituents who now 7 feel their interests are represented be in effect 8 disenfranchised? 9 Congresswoman Meek has done an outstanding job 10 representing those of us in her district in the Congress as 11 evidenced by her lack of challenges and overwhelming 12 support. While the importance of protecting incumbency is 13 uppermost in our mind, the Miami-Dade branch of the NAACP 14 more importantly strongly supports maintaining the 15 integrity of her district. The traditional working class 16 communities in the southern end of her district that 17 developed in most cases historically along railroad sidings 18 have little in common with adjacent new, expensive suburban 19 development. They do have much in common with those 20 residents in District 17 in the central and northern areas 21 of the district. 22 These are where the public housing units, where the 23 units of Section 8 housing are, where the income and asset 24 levels are similar, much more similar than they are east 25 and west. The issue is with regard to performance in DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 conditions. Thank you. 2 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Sixty-seven. 3 MS. MOSLEY: Good evening. My name is Marie Mosley. 4 I am the president of the American Federation of State and 5 County Municipal Employees of Solid Waste Management here 6 in Miami-Dade County. I'm also an executive board member 7 of Council 79 in Tallahassee. I am a familiar with a lot 8 of faces and names here that I see today. 9 Chair and Speaker, I want to thank you all for 10 bringing this hearing here to have us speak on behalf of 11 the citizens of Miami-Dade County and residents who live in 12 this community, this district, and this area. With the 13 concerns as far as redistricting in this area, I think it 14 is important to keep similar communities of interest 15 grouped together. We have heard rumors that the community 16 is considering forming districts that will span from east 17 coast of Florida to the west coast. But my question is, 18 what possibly does Hialeah have to do with Naples? 19 Okay, not only that, when we talk about "re," I have a 20 couple of other questions that I'd like to know about. 21 When we speak of re, we have redone a lot of things. I 22 mean, now we are redoing a war. I can think about of 23 saying just less than a century ago that we gave, we gave, 24 taxpayers, we gave now a country that has risen (sic) up 25 against us, to rebel against us. Everything that we redo, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 it comes back to haunt us.</p> <p>2 The only thing that we need to redo is, as you have</p> <p>3 come into this community, you have come through 95th</p> <p>4 Street. You've come across 7th Avenue. Those are the</p> <p>5 things that you need to redo that will help the community.</p> <p>6 As far as dividing for diversity or for the strong</p> <p>7 power of votes, we do not need that. We need to stay as a</p> <p>8 community, joined together to vote. We voted you here that</p> <p>9 sit before us today as a community, and we need to continue</p> <p>10 to do that in the future. And as you look around this</p> <p>11 school, this is something that you can re, redo.</p> <p>12 You know, let's talk about the portables. I looked at</p> <p>13 FIU today as I was coming from down south. I'm working on</p> <p>14 a United Way campaign. And I see a new school there off of</p> <p>15 117. There's no portables there. Okay. But then I look</p> <p>16 here, Miami Central has been here several years and I've</p> <p>17 looked at other schools in other communities that the</p> <p>18 whites have moved out and that other ethnic groups have</p> <p>19 moved into that consists of portables, portables,</p> <p>20 portables.</p> <p>21 So, if you want to redo something, if you want to redo</p> <p>22 something, redo something that will become a value. And</p> <p>23 when I say "value," I mean an education and family ethnic</p> <p>24 groups, morals, these are the things that need to be</p> <p>25 redone. Yes, I am a single parent and I raised three</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 significant number of its population, please allow those in</p> <p>2 the decision-making process to provide us with testimony,</p> <p>3 much consideration, and justification as to why these areas</p> <p>4 would have to suffer any loss. Again, I thank you for</p> <p>5 allowing me to be a part of the redistricting process.</p> <p>6 Thank you.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Sixty-nine.</p> <p>8 MS. JUDD: Good evening. My name is Elizabeth Judd.</p> <p>9 I'm a member of the Democratic Executive Committee,</p> <p>10 committee woman. I'm a member of the Democratic Black</p> <p>11 Caucus, Miami-Dade County. I'm also an employee advocate</p> <p>12 of AFSCME, the public employees' union, the number one</p> <p>13 union in the United States. As such, I'm exposed to the</p> <p>14 community in the most detrimental way; economics,</p> <p>15 employment, this is the life blood of every person in</p> <p>16 America.</p> <p>17 I come to you today to talk about redistricting.</p> <p>18 Redistricting is about voting. Voting is a privilege.</p> <p>19 Voting is a right. It's America's policy. Voting is</p> <p>20 citizenship which equals the part and parcel of the</p> <p>21 American dream, citizenship in these United States.</p> <p>22 One of the things that I often learned in high school</p> <p>23 was civics. I learned about the American government. And</p> <p>24 as such, I remember my teachers teaching me about the</p> <p>25 American way, how we all have this political process where</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 children at the Department of Solid Waste, which is a</p> <p>2 sanitation department. And I thank you. And I thank you.</p> <p>3 Thank you all.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 68.</p> <p>5 MS. WRIGHT: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members</p> <p>6 of the committee. My name is Patricia Wright. My main</p> <p>7 concern in this process is that the lines be drawn fairly.</p> <p>8 We, the people of Florida, do not want this process to be</p> <p>9 simply a partisan exercise. We want the best outcome for</p> <p>10 each and every community. A major concern is keeping</p> <p>11 District 17 intact. Being a member -- being able to add to</p> <p>12 District 17 to make it better while keeping it together.</p> <p>13 Congresswoman Meek has been on the political</p> <p>14 battlefield for District 17 a long time, hearing the cries</p> <p>15 of the district and leaping into action with and without</p> <p>16 ammunition, along with other political leaders providing</p> <p>17 services, changes to benefit the community.</p> <p>18 Statistics show that 95 percent of black dollars are</p> <p>19 spent in the white communities. I plead with you to allow</p> <p>20 District 17, along with the working empowerment zone -- I'm</p> <p>21 sorry, along with the working empowerment zones that have</p> <p>22 been set up to continue to grow businesses and services in</p> <p>23 our community so that our dollars can stay in our own</p> <p>24 communities.</p> <p>25 Finally, if District 17 needs to lose or gain a</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 we go out and we compete and may the best person take</p> <p>2 office.</p> <p>3 And as such, after taking office, that we all come</p> <p>4 together as a country and we do the best for its</p> <p>5 citizenship. This is something that I have lived and</p> <p>6 viewed as not being practiced. The examples that our</p> <p>7 politicians put forth today is not what I was taught. I</p> <p>8 was taught that we are one in this country. We are not a</p> <p>9 party. We are one nation.</p> <p>10 I believe that September 11th came about because we</p> <p>11 had forgotten those basic civic lessons. I believe that</p> <p>12 this community, this state, this country will be</p> <p>13 destabilized even further unless we learn from our lessons</p> <p>14 that we have been presented here, September the 11th. I</p> <p>15 would hope that you would not destabilize my community. I</p> <p>16 would hope that you understand that there's a delicate</p> <p>17 balance that exists when you bring together so many</p> <p>18 different people with so many different cultures with so</p> <p>19 many differences. It's important that we have a common</p> <p>20 goal that we can come around and to unite, believing, as</p> <p>21 Professor Jones said, in the value of fairness, that there</p> <p>22 is value in our government. That there is value worth</p> <p>23 standing up for. That our government, which is supposed to</p> <p>24 be a democracy, when all is said and done --</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty seconds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 MS. JUDD: -- at the end of the day, will stand for 2 the people and not for the party. I thank you very much 3 for this opportunity.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 70.</p> <p>5 MR. DAWSON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, local 6 committee, our elected Representatives, Congresswoman 7 Carrie Meek, District 17, my State Senator, Senator 8 Kendrick Meek, District 36, my House Representative, 9 Frederica Wilson, District 104.</p> <p>10 I am here this afternoon to let you, the committee, 11 know that we are a community of multi-ethnic and cultural 12 representatives and we also do our politics in this 13 community nonpartisan. I represent the North Central 14 Community Council as an elected councilman. I am also the 15 chairperson for the community action program executive 16 committee.</p> <p>17 First of all, I want to thank our representatives who 18 have incumbent status, either in their current position or 19 another position, prior to this last election. I'm talking 20 about our Congresslady, Carrie Meek, Senator Kendrick Meek, 21 and also our State Representative, Frederica Wilson.</p> <p>22 I would like to thank you for bringing along our 23 newcomers, State Representative Dorothy 24 Bendross-Mindingall, Brutus, and also Wilbert "Tee" 25 Holloway, State Representative. I think that you have done</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 Community Action Program which is recognized throughout the 2 country as a quality and one of the best programs in 3 America. And also the empowerment zone projects, the 4 Enterprise Zone and Hope Six, we would like to continue to 5 work on those. And, Mr. Chair, when your committee has 6 finished its final product, we would also invite you to 7 come back to this community so that we can dialogue with 8 you on the final process. Thank you.</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 71.</p> <p>10 MR. GLASGOW: Good evening. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, 11 and members of the House Redistricting Committee for 12 allowing me to testify on some of the critical aspects of 13 redistricting and democratic reform and to offer my 14 insights into what this state can do to ensure fairness in 15 the selection process by guaranteeing that all citizens are 16 represented at the table of governance.</p> <p>17 My name is Rick Glasgow. I am the director of 18 community development for Miami-Dade's Office of Community 19 and Economic Development. Miami-Dade County is the second 20 largest recipient of community development block grant 21 funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban 22 Development in the country. We are second only to Los 23 Angeles County. Hardee awards grants to entitlement 24 jurisdictions on a formula basis as determined by three 25 factors, the number of people with incomes below the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 a noble job and one of the things that I would like to 2 plead to this committee to continue, wherever possible, 3 let's continue the incumbency process in this particular 4 area because we sorely, sorely need it.</p> <p>5 Our tourism business is going down, we're going to 6 need all of the help that we can get from the State. As a 7 result of what happened in New York on the 11th, we 8 certainly are going to have problems in the aviation 9 industry. We move a lot of people in and out of this state 10 who come to visit our Disney World projects and also to do 11 business in our local communities and also out of South 12 America.</p> <p>13 So, we are going to need people who know the process 14 and can keep the process going. So I plead to you for 15 incumbency in the areas of the state where we can keep 16 them. As I said, we do our politics, mainly in this 17 community, our local politics, in a nonpartisan kind of 18 relationship. And I would like for you to know that Carrie 19 Meek, our Congresswoman, have us so involved that we don't 20 know whether we are men or women, we are black or white or 21 we are Republicans or Democrats. All we know is we have to 22 work in this community to get the job done.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN BYRD: You have 30 seconds.</p> <p>24 MR. DAWSON: We also would like for you to know that 25 we have some projects that we would like to maintain. Our</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p> <p>1 poverty level, age of the housing stock, and the low mod 2 (sic) population.</p> <p>3 To ensure that these awards are utilized to empower 4 the people for whom they are intended, HUD defined certain 5 classifications within the entitlement jurisdiction as 6 neighborhood revitalization strategy areas or more commonly 7 referred to as focus areas. There are nine such focus 8 areas in Miami-Dade County, four of which: Opa Locka, 9 Wesley River, Montasuccee (phonetic) and Brownsville, are 10 included in Congressional District 17.</p> <p>11 Let me put these facts in the context of this public 12 hearing. The significance of having this number of low 13 income communities within the district is that from a 14 regional planning perspective, the elected Representative 15 for the district can engage in a more whole holistic and 16 comprehensive approach to address the needs of the 17 constituents. The geographic and demographic homogeneity of 18 the district affords Congresswoman Meek a macro approach to 19 analysis of the infrastructure; transportation, housing, 20 economic development, and public service needs of the 21 district's communities.</p> <p>22 In short, the current configuration of the district 23 affords Congresswoman Meek and her constituents the 24 opportunity to engage in collaborative regional planning --</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thirty seconds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p> <p>1 MR. GLASGOW: -- for a sustainable community. 2 Conversely, should you elect to reapportionment District 17 3 in a manner that fragments and consequently dilutes the 4 concentration of these similar communities, such action 5 would concurrently disturb the existing elements which 6 contribute to a seamless community evaluation strategy. 7 Let us not conspire to deprive these constituents of their 8 rights. Thank you. 9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, sir. Number 72. 10 Seventy-three. Seventy-three. Seventy-four. 11 MR. MONESTIME: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and 12 committee members. My name is Jean Monestime. I'm a 13 business consultant and real estate broker in North Miami. 14 My presence here is owed to pay tribute to this great 15 democratic process. And also my presence here is to the 16 North Miami, North Miami Beach, and North Miami Shores, and 17 Little Haiti citizens, citizens who support my business and 18 other small businesses in these areas. In other words, I'm 19 here to support the interests of these communities and 20 request that minority representation in State House 21 District 108, State Senate District 36, and U.S. 22 Congressional District 17 be respected and maintained. 23 As an African-American of Haitian descent, I do 24 believe that the needs of my community are in many 25 instances, congruent to that of many other minorities, and DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 to progressive Americans to demand our freedom when we are 2 unfairly detained at ground. We do look forward to 3 progressive Americans when we are discriminated against for 4 employment, health care, and education. 5 And we do look forward for you, Mr. Chairman, and this 6 committee to help minorities, and in particular, Americans 7 of Haitian descent, not to only maintain their 8 representation, but also to ensure that other minorities 9 has the same privilege and rights whenever the 10 socioeconomic apparatus of our state requires so. God 11 bless this committee and God bless the United States of 12 America. 13 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Seventy-five. Seventy-five. 14 Seventy-five. 15 MS. FERGUS: I am coming. My comments on the 16 redistricting process is this. We know that there is a G 17 factor, the G factor is growth, growth in the north, growth 18 in the south. So, if you will go to the equator line of 19 Miami-Dade County, give us a seat in the north, give us a 20 seat in the south, everybody will be sitting pretty. 21 I do remember that taxation without representation is 22 tyranny. Thank you. 23 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Seventy-six. Seventy-seven. 24 Seventy-eight. Seventy-nine. Seventy-nine. 25 MS. THOMPSON: Yes. Thank you. Good evening, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p> <p>1 in particular, those of the larger Haitian, 2 African-American community. However, considering the 3 compactness, cultural aspect and socioeconomic conditions 4 of Americans of Haitian descent, the overall needs of the 5 citizens cannot be represented but by individuals who share 6 our aspirations, dreams, and expectations. 7 State House District 108, Senate District 36 and 8 Congressional District 17 do offer opportunities of the 9 type of representation that we desire and therefore must be 10 maintained. To maintain this district in their current 11 shape and form is to allow the dreams of minorities to be 12 represented at least at these levels and ensure 13 participation in this great democratic process and help 14 develop our communities. 15 As African-American of Haitian descent, our desire is 16 not to step over the minorities who come before us and 17 those that come and will continue to come after us in order 18 to achieve political and socioeconomic success, for we know 19 the plan of being shorthanded and disenfranchised; however, 20 our desire is to play the active role that history has 21 placed us to play in this great democracy of the United 22 States of America. 23 Again, as African-American of Haitian descent, we do 24 look forward to progressive Americans to demand for call of 25 justice when we are intercepted at sea. We do look forward DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p> <p>1 Mr. Chairman, committee members, guests, and fellow 2 residents in the community. My name is Charlayne 3 Thompson, Charlayne W. Thompson. And I wanted you to 4 know that I am a tax-paying resident of Miami-Dade County. 5 I also wanted you to know a little bit of history about me 6 and my orientation in terms of Miami-Dade County. 7 For those of you who are most familiar with our 8 history when I say these things, you will know exactly what 9 I mean and from where I come from and how I relate to this 10 issue. I want you to know that I attended Jackson Tuttle, 11 that I attended Florida Heights Elementary School, and I 12 attended Brown Deville Junior High school, that I attended 13 Mayes High School, Mayes Middle High School in Grooms, 14 Florida, Miami Edison in Lemon City, Miami Jackson. I 15 graduated from Miami Jackson High School in Allapattah. I 16 also graduated from the University of Miami in Coral 17 Gables. 18 I attend the Church of the Open Door in Liberty City 19 and I have participated in a number of volunteer efforts 20 with the United Way agency audit committee as well as other 21 organizations, the Greater Miami Tennis Foundation which 22 provides professional instructions for inner city youths to 23 have tennis on a level other than the elementary levels. 24 I am also serving as a volunteer on an organization 25 called the Yubalate (phonetic), Inc., which is an arts DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 126</p> <p>1 organization with both a focal and stream youth component 2 that is a diverse organization of people coming together to 3 promote and be the voice in artistry of African-American 4 composers and musicians. 5 So, when I stand before you today, I'm here to say 6 that I invest my time, my talent and my money in this 7 community. And I would like for you to know and understand 8 that under the leadership of Congresswoman Carrie Meek, I 9 have seen this community grow and blossom into what it is 10 today. 11 I also would like to say to you that being a resident, 12 a long-time resident of Miami-Dade County, I would like for 13 you to consider community. And when I say "community" to 14 you, I would like for you to include in your definition of 15 community those similar characteristics that we have 16 together so that we are not disempowered nor 17 disenfranchised. Congresswoman Carrie Meek is on a mission 18 to empower her constituents and I would like for you to 19 help us in continuing those efforts because it's important 20 to us all. 21 Some of those recommendations that I would ask you to 22 implore in your "community" definition are those 23 similarities that we have in property values, those 24 similarities that we have in median incomes, education, 25 social service needs and historical community efforts. I DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 128</p> <p>1 unfamiliar with. 2 We understand that politics is a selfish science. So 3 should it be, has always been. We also realize that we 4 have about 20 people here that is pretty tired of listening 5 to people right now. But we also recognize there's going 6 to be about 160 people that's going to make these 7 decisions. They're going to be Republicans. They're going 8 to be Democrats. And Republicans are going to be looking 9 out for the best interest of Republicans. Democrats are 10 going to be looking out for the best interest of Democrats. 11 But I will caution you on one thing tonight, timing. 12 Because we all know as politicians that timing is not 13 important, but timing is everything. This is not the time 14 to make any type of radical changes. In the days coming 15 forward, it'll become clearer to us that this is not the 16 time. Again, timing is everything, it's not the time. 17 The selfishness that we have as politicians, that's 18 okay because that's what politics is all about, a part of 19 selfishness. But it's not a part of destruction. We 20 cannot self-destruct by going against a whole framework of 21 politics which is timing. The timing now is that hold what 22 you have, do what you have to do, but recognize timing. 23 I recognize the Republicans, I recognize Democrats, 24 but the thing that I recognize most is the State of 25 Florida. I recognize South Florida and I'm cautioning you, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 127</p> <p>1 would also like to specifically recommend to you that it's 2 my understanding that we may have an undercount in the 3 District 17. 4 As a recommendation -- 5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty seconds. 6 MS. THOMPkins: -- I would like for you to consider 7 the north county or the city of North Miami and including 8 those in the district. Areas -- and community efforts such 9 as the Up Pack Group (phonetic) and including those 10 individuals if there's an undercount. So I'm giving you a 11 recommendation for how to fix the problem if we have an 12 undercount. 13 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, ma'am. Number 80. Number 14 80. Number 81. Number 82. Eighty-three. Eighty-two. 15 DR. PETTAWAY: I'm Dr. Clyde Pettaway and I'm a 16 product of 1992 when you were redistricting. When you did 17 the redistricting the last time, I went to bed that night 18 feeling good running in the district, woke up that next 19 morning and the whole district was changed. I had five 20 blocks in my area and everything else had then vanished. 21 I hope that doesn't happen this year. I hope when you 22 look at District 104, and you look at District 103, that 23 the people in those communities, in those districts, will 24 not go to sleep at night with one district and wake up the 25 next morning with a whole district that they are totally DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p> <p>1 I'm begging you, as Republicans, as Democrats, keep in mind 2 one simple word, timing. Thank you. 3 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Eighty-three. Eighty-three. 4 Eighty-four. 5 MS. BLACK: Thank you so very much for allowing me to 6 speak tonight. My name is Elaine Black. I'm executive 7 director for Tools for Change, the Black Economic 8 Development Coalition, Inc. The organization was founded 9 by Congresswoman Meek back in 1989 when a group of black 10 leaders got together to identify the gaps in the economic 11 development delivery system here. 12 My focus tonight is simple, economic development, 13 revitalization of our communities. In 1992 we 14 redistricted. We redistricted in a way that began to bring 15 dollars back into our communities of African descent. That 16 was very critical. Congresswoman Meek and others from the 17 state began to bring dollars into Overtown, into Liberty 18 City, the Poinciana Industrial Park. We need to continue 19 those efforts. 20 We can continue those efforts by ensuring that the 21 districts have strong representation of the African descent 22 community. And in ensuring that, as we grow, we can 23 accomplish what we would like to accomplish here in 24 developing our economic prosperity within the black 25 community. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p> <p>1 I want to thank you so very much and I look forward to 2 seeing the districts being representative of our community. 3 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 85. Eight-five. Eighty-six. 4 MS. JONES: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, 5 good evening. My name is Opal Jones and I'm executive 6 director of the Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Foundation. 7 I'm here tonight to impress upon you the need for a 8 redistricting plan which protects the rights of Miami's low 9 income housing community. Unfortunately, for low income 10 families across the state, affordable housing is not a 11 concept that most elected officials bring to the forefront 12 of policy debate. 13 However, Congresswoman Carrie Meek has long been a 14 stalwart voice in the struggle for affordable housing 15 programs. In fact, from the mid '80s through today, she 16 remains the people's champion for the voice of homeless and 17 Sunday housed. Throughout her legislative career, she's 18 supported innovative housing programs and financial 19 programs in Florida. In fact, earlier this year, the 20 foundation honored Carrie Meek as our second housing hero, 21 an honor predicated upon her years of dedicated service in 22 the affordable housing arena. 23 24 The foundation has created first-time home buyers 25 clubs that span the length of the county. These clubs are DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p> <p>1 simply a registered voter who wants to ensure that my vote 2 has a real chance to count. I ask, as you draw in the 3 various districts, that you pay close attention to 4 maintaining the districts that have common interests, 5 common history and common goals. Maintaining this 6 commonality is the only way to ensure that our voices are 7 heard and that we have the opportunity to elect individuals 8 who will represent our best interest. Any other approach 9 to drawing the lines will only dilute the impact of our 10 votes and result in less political power than we have today 11 and thus reduce the chance for our communities to elect the 12 candidates of our choice. Thank you. 13 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 88. 14 MS. DAVIS: Good afternoon, good evening, Chairperson, 15 committee. My name is Fay Davis, I'm president of the 16 Firefighter's Association. We are an organization of 17 predominantly African-American firefighters that work for 18 Dade County and one of our biggest supporters is Senator 19 Meek with that said. As I understand it, you have not yet 20 established criteria for drawing maps. As you-all know, 21 the criteria that you ultimately decide to use will be 22 vitally important in any lawsuit that is filed challenging 23 the validity of the districts that you draw. 24 In addition to the standard criteria of compactness 25 following municipal and county boundaries in respecting DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p> <p>1 in places such as Florida City, Perrine, Goulds, Overtown, 2 Liberty City and Opa Locka. 3 As for your redistricting process, it's imperative 4 that you maintain those communities of interest so that our 5 voices will continue to be heard. The families in these 6 neighborhoods share many common interests, just one of them 7 being the need for affordable housing programs. If you 8 draw district lines to disperse this population, you will 9 deprive us of the leadership that has brought us together 10 and helped us to develop the political power which we 11 pursue unpopular but critical low income housing interest. 12 I implore you at all cost not to dilute the political 13 representation of the county's low income housing 14 community. Please keep us closely aligned so we can 15 continue our partnership of the leadership of Congresswoman 16 Meek. 17 I might also add that the same type of grassroots 18 leadership in advocacy is offered by Senator Kendrick Meek, 19 Representatives Bendross-Mindingall and Frederica Wilson. 20 These leaders share our common bonds. Keep the district 21 lines drawn so that these bonds are not broken. Thank you 22 again for your time and your attention. 23 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Eighty-seven. 24 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, and members of the 25 committee, good evening. My name is Xavier Johnson and I'm DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p> <p>1 communities of interest, I urge you to also adopt the 2 following criteria when you draw districts. First, you 3 should start with the core existing districts and keep 4 those cores intact to the extent possible. I also urge you 5 to draw districts that will protect incumbents. 6 People in the existing districts have learned to work 7 with their community over the last decade and have come to 8 know and depend upon the elected officials in their areas. 9 By keeping the core of the existing districts and drawing 10 the districts in a manner that will likely result in the 11 same people representing the districts, you will promote 12 stability which is greatly needed in times such as these. 13 It is important that there be no regression with respect to 14 gains that African-Americans have made during the last 15 decade. 16 The 1992 redistricting cycle was the first time that 17 many of the people in the black community were able to 18 elect candidates who were sensitive and responsive to our 19 concerns. Many of our communities were neglected by State 20 and Congressional officials for so long that there 21 continues to be much work that needs to be done to help 22 those communities reach their full potential. In order for 23 the work of rebuilding these communities to continue 24 successfully, we need to keep the core of those existing 25 districts and the same elected officials or officials with DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p> <p>1 similar philosophies and sensitivities to our issues. 2 Please do not turn back the clock on the gains that we 3 have made to date. Now is not the time for change. Keep 4 our existing districts to the largest extent possible. 5 Thank you. 6 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Eighty-nine. 7 MS. METETLUS: Good evening. Good evening, committee 8 members. At this point, I know that you've heard much of 9 what I'm going to say; however, I'm going to exercise my 10 right as a citizen to go ahead and let you hear what I've 11 come here to share with you. 12 My name is Gipsie Metetlus and I reside in Miami 13 Shores, Florida which is within Congressional District 17 14 within Senate District 36, also within House District 108 15 and certainly, my neighbors, my friends, those people who I 16 would suggest represent those people who are among the 17 community that I belong in have also benefited from the 18 tremendous advocacy and the support of Representative 19 Holloway, Representative Wilson, Representative -- excuse 20 me, Senator Jones, as well as Representative 21 Bendross-Mindingall. And so I really want to emphasize 22 that. 23 This evening, I would like to urge you to maintain the 24 present district boundaries, the districts that I 25 mentioned. I would like to urge you to maintain them as DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p> <p>1 blaze new trails for all of us. Representative Philip 2 Brutus is the Haitian-American community's pride and joy. 3 He is the very first Haitian-American we elected to the 4 Florida House and we want to make sure he maintains there. 5 He is our voice, he's our eyes, he's our ears, he's our 6 advocate and we want to make sure that he continues to 7 build upon all the successes he's made so far. And 8 certainly success he's been able to realize with the help 9 of the allies that I referenced earlier. 10 So, I hope that you've heard me. I hope that you've 11 heard all of these speakers before me. And let me just 12 politely ask you if you didn't hear me, to please read my 13 lips, Do not touch the current district boundaries. Thank 14 you. 15 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 90. 16 MS. DELANCEY: Good evening. I am a proud member of 17 House District 104 where Representative Wilson has 18 represented me for over ten years, six years on the school 19 board and four years on the House of Representatives. I 20 know for a fact that Representative Wilson is relentless in 21 her service to the constituents of District 104. She's 22 always one telephone call away. 23 District 104 is a community comprised of northern, 24 central, and North Miami feeder patterns. So, you can see 25 she affects many people and children. Yesterday there was DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p> <p>1 intact as they are today. These boundaries, I would 2 suggest, need to remain intact because they comprise 3 communities of interest whose issues include affordable 4 health care; quality, affordable housing; quality schools; 5 safe neighbors; sustainable economic development; a clean 6 environment; neighborhood revitalization; immigration 7 issues that are fair; roads that are adequate; all of the 8 infrastructure needs that we must have; a bilingual 9 education program that really enables our children to 10 learn, not to just acquire the English language but to also 11 perform well in school; and, certainly, transportation 12 systems that take people where they really want to go in 13 this county. 14 I urge you to maintain the current district boundaries 15 for all of the reasons that I have stated and all of the 16 reasons that you have heard previously because what's more 17 important is that our voice, our interests, are maintained 18 and are protected by the people who represent us so well. 19 When it comes to immigration policies, community 20 development, and general advocacy for the little people, 21 the common people, the voiceless, the legendary Carrie P. 22 Meek is our voice in Congress. 23 Senator Meek is our hero. We count on him to protect 24 the gains made by the members of the African diaspora. We 25 count on him to not only protect those gains but to also DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p> <p>1 a bill passed, which is the first of its kind to make 2 sexual violence in prisons and jails a felony. That means 3 if an inmate is raped by an employee of that jail, he or 4 she will be arrested, tried and convicted. 5 This monumental task is due to the passage of House 6 Bill 285. Representative Wilson worked diligently and 7 tirelessly to ensure the passing of this history-making 8 bill. Representative Wilson has also made it possible for 9 female inmates who live in Dade County to be relocated so 10 that they will be able to visit with their minor children. 11 She's made female inmates, and especially children, the 12 hallmark of her legislative career. 13 I'm sure that all of you were warmly welcomed by just 14 a few members of 5,000 Role Models of Excellence. These 15 boys represent just a small percentage of over 6,000 middle 16 and senior high school boys who, through this program, 17 Representative Wilson has given a sense of hope and will 18 prepare them for college year after year. 19 So I ask you to keep Representative Wilson's district, 20 104, my district, intact. We need her. We want her. We 21 support her. In closing, I leave you with this poem 22 entitled, Freedom, by a friend of mind, Melissa Williams 23 Roddy (phonetic). 24 "In this world where cries for freedom rings, where 25 hope is glory and justice stings, where all is DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p> <p>1 misunderstood or taken as rage, where injustice prevails 2 and justice takes a backstage, the past is reborn only 3 covered by time. Visions of hope are torn. No sight, 4 blinded by mankind.</p> <p>5 It states in the Constitution that man is free. The 6 writers of this law are not here to see. For rule set for 7 man defines only one kind, when I look in the mirror I'm 8 reminded it's mine. For a glance of reality sits deep in 9 my heart, the echoes of injustice tears it part by part.</p> <p>10 So, in this case, I sit with a pasted smile, praying 11 that God and his justice comes in a short, short while. If 12 not for him, I would wither away, for injustice as I see, 13 is here to stay. For the great shadows of the past, your 14 fight was not in vain. For when redemption time comes, 15 then freedom shall ring. Holding onto the thought, the 16 battle was won. I refurbish my mass, pondering just how 17 long the injustice will last."</p> <p>18 I ask that you please keep Representative Wilson, 19 Bendross-Mindingall, Holloway, Brutus, Senator Kendrick 20 Meek, Senator Daryl Jones and Congresswoman Carrie Meek. 21 Thank you.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Ninety-one.</p> <p>23 MS. OBI NWEZE: Good evening, Mr. Chair, members of 24 the committee. My name is Adora Obi Nweze. I am president 25 of the Florida State Conference of NAACP branches. There DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p> <p>1 however, we expect you to protect your constituents' 2 interests as well. It is important that you protect groups 3 with common interests and empower them to make elective 4 choices. Please do it for my grandson. (Laughter.) We 5 strongly urge this committee to observe the concept of no 6 regression as it relates to the existing districts which 7 have provided an opportunity for black communities to be 8 represented by people they choose. Any proposal that would 9 result in a reduction in the number of black members in the 10 Congress or Florida House or Senate must be rejected.</p> <p>11 Further, as proposals are presented, to add the two 12 additional congressional seats awarded to Florida as a 13 result of national reapportionment, we are demanding that 14 care be taken not to undermine the voter choice created by 15 the 1992 round of redistricting. We understand that some 16 rearrangement and realignment is required; however, we urge 17 you to make these necessary changes in a way that does not 18 reduce the number of black Representatives who currently 19 serve in Congress.</p> <p>20 Finally, we ask that after these hearings are 21 concluded and when the real work of this committee has 22 begun, that you will provide equal access and an 23 opportunity for input as actual plans are considered. The 24 voters deserve to express their opinions about the process 25 and it is equally important that they have an opportunity DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p> <p>1 are a few points that I would like to share with you this 2 evening for the record. First, the committee has traveled 3 across the state gathering input about how Floridians think 4 redistricting should be done. However, the committee has 5 never said what will govern its work as the actual drawing 6 process takes place.</p> <p>7 Therefore, the Florida State Conference of NAACP 8 branches request that this joint legislative committee 9 adopts and publishes the criteria that will govern the 10 development of congressional and legislative districts. 11 Those of us who intend to actively develop districting 12 proposals need to understand and utilize those same 13 criteria in order to ensure that our proposals are not 14 dismissed for technical reasons.</p> <p>15 The only way to accomplish that is to have clearly 16 stated criteria developed by the Legislature. As you 17 develop this criteria, it is important that you understand 18 that we believe the abiding principle needs to be that all 19 voters will have an opportunity to elect candidates of 20 their choice to elective office. Districts must be 21 constructed in a manner that allows blacks and other groups 22 who have previously been unable to affect elections the 23 opportunity to do so.</p> <p>24 We understand that as incumbents you want to work to 25 protect your own interest. You see I have a helper here; DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p> <p>1 to express their opinions about the plans that this process 2 ultimately creates.</p> <p>3 Lastly, I would like to say that the NAACP, not only 4 at the Florida state conference level but throughout this 5 nation --</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN BYRD: You have 20 seconds.</p> <p>7 MS. OBI NWEZE: -- are very proud of the work that's 8 being done by all of our black Representatives. And we do, 9 for the record, want to keep them all. Thank you.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Ninety-two. Ninety-two.</p> <p>11 MR. VARIETY: Good evening. Chairman, members, thank 12 you for this opportunity to speak to you this evening. My 13 name is Samaki Variety from Helen Bentley Family Health 14 Care in Coconut Grove, Florida. It was not until the last 15 round of redistricting in 1992 that Floridians elected a 16 black congressperson to represent us in Washington, D.C. 17 Actually, we were blessed to elect three blacks in Congress 18 as a result of the 1992 redistricting, Corrine Brown, Alcee 19 Hastings, and Carrie Meek.</p> <p>20 While Congressman Hastings' Congressional District 23 21 includes only a small portion of Miami-Dade County, 22 Congresswoman Carrie Meek's 17th Congressional district is 23 totally encompassed within Miami-Dade County.</p> <p>24 I live here in Miami-Dade and the congresswoman is a 25 part of our community. She's my congressperson. She knows DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 142</p> <p>1 us and she knows the issues and concerns that are important 2 to us. A substantial number of the residents of the 17th 3 Congressional District are from disadvantaged, inner city 4 neighbors where -- that were historically neglected and 5 underserved. Our needs and concerns are very different 6 from those of our neighbors than more affluent areas like 7 Miami Beach and Pine Crest, for example. 8 Prior to Congresswoman Carrie Meek being elected to 9 represent us, we did not have ready access to a 10 congressperson to address the unique concerns about 11 transportation, housing, economic development, health care, 12 and educational issues. Congresswoman Carrie Meek believes 13 in the people that she serves and we believe in her. We 14 want her district to stay as well as our other black 15 Representatives. I urge you to keep Congressional 16 District -- the 17th Congressional District intact so that 17 Congresswoman Carrie Meek can continue to serve it. Thank 18 you. 19 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Ninety-three. Ninety-three. 20 Ninety-four. Ninety-five. Ninety-six. Ninety-seven. 21 Ninety-eight. Ninety-seven. Okay. Welcome to the 22 committee. Ninety-seven, welcome to the committee. 23 MR. LOUIS: Good evening. Thank you for giving me the 24 opportunity to talk tonight and I'm here to ask you to 25 please remember in 1776 we had the Revolutionary War in DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 144</p> <p>1 out, I think this is only political redistricting for the 2 Hispanic community. 3 The reason why I say that is because we've got a 4 popcorn theory going on inside the black community where as 5 soon as one person moves out of Liberty City or Opa Locka, 6 we have a Hispanic coming in. This popcorn theory where 7 you put a kernel inside the pot only to cover it, to only 8 lift the lid to have it be a whole kernel, a white kernel, 9 is a problem. It is a problem within the black community, 10 because as the sister stated earlier, when you look around 11 at the schools that have been here before some of these new 12 schools were built, we get portables. 13 When we're looking at education, I have to take my hat 14 off and thank Senator Wilson for sticking with that 15 curriculum of getting black history inside those classrooms 16 for four semesters a year. When we're talking about -- I 17 heard Mr. Ken Hall say this earlier about the 2.3 million 18 blacks statewide and the 2.7 million Hispanics in Dade 19 County. 20 When we look at community development, block (CHECK) 21 grant dollars that Mr. Glasco (CHECK) talked about earlier, 22 you only get those dollars on the back of black folks. You 23 cannot get those dollars anywhere because when it comes to 24 start a project, any ^ (CHECK) Liberty Square, whether it 25 be Larzmont (CHECK) that shut down or the projects of the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 143</p> <p>1 this country and it was based on taxation without 2 representation. And by saying this, I'm just reminding you 3 that the people of Miami-Dade County would like to keep 4 Mr. Holloway, Mr. Brutus, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Mindingall, 5 Congresswoman Carrie Meek, Senator Meek and Senator Jones. 6 And based on what Ms. Gipsie Metetlus just said, you know, 7 those people that speak our same language, they understand 8 our pain and they can represent us better than anybody else 9 who would be in that position. Thank you very much. 10 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Ninety-eight. Ninety-eight. 11 Ninety-nine. Ninety-eight. 12 MR. DENNIS: Good evening, Chairperson. First of all, 13 I would like to thank God for having everybody here safe 14 and that you continue to go around the state doing the task 15 that's at hand. My first thing is about the communities of 16 interest, we are concerned about the representation of the 17 black community. With all of our elected officials, I 18 think when you look at our four State Reps, they all run 19 together as far as the districts are concerned. 20 When we're looking at communities of interest, we're 21 talking about low-income communities that are in dire need 22 of economic development with jobs and education. When we 23 look at what we are trying to do here as part as the 24 redistricting, we will not allow any of our black 25 representation to be phased out. And what I mean by phased DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p> <p>1 town, when you write those grants, you calling us. You 2 calling us. You are calling the black community for a 3 simple fact. 4 We got a high infant morality rate, crime wave, 5 teenage pregnancies, ALBs, (CHECK) Medicaid, we on it. We 6 on it and it's designed for us to be like that. Our 7 representation is going to get us off that. The census 8 undercount, when it comes to the black and Haitian 9 community, I have a problem with that because we have never 10 ever seen a boat of Cubans wash up on the shore dead. But 11 we can always go back and we can look at the countless 12 history in times where we see our Haitian brothers and 13 sisters rolling up on the seashore dead. And something has 14 to be happening out there for those boats to be constantly 15 flipping, and these people coming up in here like that. 16 One of the things -- I'm going to hurry up and I'm 17 about finished with this. The Republican party controls 18 all of Tallahassee, ain't no secret about it. When we was 19 up there in March, there was a committee that was 20 seven-fourth -- seven against the two no votes to give 21 ex-felons their right back to the vote. To have those 22 rights back, restored. That committee was full of 23 Democrats and Republicans, went 16 nothing and got that 24 bill shot through the House subcommittee to where it 25 wouldn't have to be sent to the floor. Which in turn, had DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 146</p> <p>1 the Governor turned around to sit there to sign those 2 restoration rights -- 12 to four -- 3 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty seconds. 4 MR. DENNIS: -- and I want to take my hat off to 5 Senator Meek for that. The last thing and it'll cover it 6 all up. District 17, when it comes to the Congresswoman's 7 district, is the most important district in the state of 8 Florida because outside of south Florida, we don't have no 9 other black representation in the state of Florida to get 10 what we need done. Thank you all. Have a blessed night. 11 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 98. Number 99. 12 How about Number 99? Number 100. Number 101, come on down 13 and sit on the front row. You are recognized. 14 MR. LIGHTWORN: I'm Norman Lightworn (phonetic) and I 15 am a civil servant here in the community. I have watched 16 my community grow. I have seen the things that have 17 happened. I'm also a service member of the United States 18 Armed Forces. I have seen what happened here in '80 when I 19 arrived back from Germany. This has a ripple effect. 20 Redistricting has a ripple effect and it's guaranteed. If 21 we watch history and see what has happened in our past, in 22 our backtracking, we will only defeat ourselves by doing 23 so. 24 I would please ask you not to -- well, you are going 25 to -- like I've always said, everything has an effect to DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 148</p> <p>1 of positions as the State Representative and the great 2 things that she has done as well. I'm also stating that 3 Congress (sic) Meek is perhaps maybe the best Congresswoman 4 in the United States. And I think under her leadership 5 this district has improved 150 percent. 6 Congresswoman Meek, you can talk to her, the small 7 person on the street can pull Congresswoman Meek aside and 8 talk with her. I am here to also state that Mr. Holloway, 9 Ms. Wilson, Bendross, Meek, Jones, and any others of our 10 Representatives, you can talk to them, you can pull them 11 aside, and really, the small person can say, Here is what 12 we need. In our area we need medical, social. We need 13 scholarships. We need the American dream to become true 14 for young people to be able to purchase a home. 15 Congresswoman Meek was very -- a major force in South 16 Florida during the time of Hurricane Andrew. I would like 17 to not read much, but I would like to say that the slogan 18 says, If it isn't broke, don't fix it. Thank you. 19 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 101. (Pause.) One-hundred-two. 20 MS. WHITE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members of 21 the committee. My name is Jessica White and I am a student 22 here at Miami Central Senior High School. And I'm also a 23 member of this community. Many times we as students get 24 overlooked because of the fact that we are not voters or 25 even taxpayers but are those reasons why we shouldn't be DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 147</p> <p>1 it. Okay. Everything works by design. We all know that 2 everything works by design, okay? But basically, as far as 3 our community is concerned, I'm pleading a cause with you 4 to reconsider at this time redistricting. Sit down, 5 examine it before you make a move to do something. Thank 6 you. 7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Ninety-nine. Number 99. Number 100. 8 MR. MARSHALL: To the Chairman and the committee, my 9 name is Reverend Dr. Preston Marshall and I'm a resident of 10 Miami-Dade County and I live in the 17th Congressional 11 District in the great state of Florida. However, I'm here 12 to state to keep intact all of the elected officials that 13 represent this community, us. And this is the one greatest 14 thing in the world that we perhaps have. 15 I grew up also, as was stated earlier -- and I'm not 16 going to read my speech -- in the Overtown area. Now it's 17 probably called Overtown because the expressways is running 18 over where I grew up. You Representatives of my district 19 of 108, Brutus, State Senator Meek, and Congressman Meek, 20 I'm here to state to keep intact their district so that 21 they can represent our people and the minority people in a 22 good intact fashion. 23 I'm also stating to the rest of the State 24 Representatives that have done an excellent job, Ms. Wilson 25 who has been on the school board and has moved on into lots DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 149</p> <p>1 heard? No, they are not. 2 This is why I would like to recognize Congresswoman 3 Carrie Meek at this time. Her work with the youth of 4 District 17 has been great. Not only were we given a voice 5 through her, a lot of opportunities were made available 6 because of her. I would like to ask a question to the 7 board right now. Can you assure the students of this 8 community that our voices will still be heard if divided? 9 Can you really say that we will not be overlooked? 10 If not, I would like to quote what the young man just 11 said, If it's not broke, don't fix it. I am not saying 12 that there's not room for improvement, but I believe by 13 keeping the district the way it is, we can accomplish more 14 united than divided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members 15 of the committee. 16 CHAIRMAN BYRD: One-hundred-three. One-hundred-three. 17 One-hundred-four. 18 MS. BROWN LAWSON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and 19 members of the committee. My name is Ophelia Brown Lawson 20 and I serve as the director of the Miami-Dade Community 21 Action Agency. My organization provides social and 22 educational services to low-income families throughout 23 Miami-Dade. And I just want to take a moment to say to the 24 Dade delegation, We love you and we are so proud of all of 25 the work that you do on our behalf. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p> <p>1 The 17th Congressional District includes a large 2 percentage of people we serve. The needs of a person who 3 resides in the district are similar. Persons need jobs, 4 training, early education for their children, decent and 5 affordable housing, access to transportation, job placement 6 and vocational training in order to rise from poverty to 7 self-sufficiency.</p> <p>8 In District 17 these citizens want the same things for 9 their children, families, and communities as others. 10 Historically, we have felt discriminated against, deprived 11 of making an adequate living and trapped into conditions 12 that reduce our chances of our children from making it in 13 society. Many of them have experienced isolation from the 14 largest community. By hope eternal, we have a voice in 15 Washington now through our Congressman, Carrie P. Meek.</p> <p>16 She has been very responsive to meeting the needs of 17 residents as well as the needs of citizens through Florida, 18 through our Florida, and the nation as a result of her 19 leadership. She brought awareness into the nation's 20 capital on issues affecting communities such as high 21 unemployment, immigration, the importance of early care and 22 education through Head Start and early Head Start, 23 HIV/AIDS, elderly abuse, the Everglades Restoration, 24 Empowerment Zone, Hope Six, Hauser Rehab, and 25 transportation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p> <p>1 adorable grandson, our future. I consider myself to be a 2 very serious child advocate. I am a constituent of Senate 3 District 32, House District 103 and Congress District 17.</p> <p>4 It is my pleasure to stand before you and stand with 5 others to express concerns regarding issues that will 6 impact the future of our community. You have heard how our 7 community is very diverse because of our backgrounds, our 8 lifestyles and our beliefs, yet these wonderful differences 9 have given us something in common, we want good-paying jobs 10 with benefits, food on our tables, and a roof over our head 11 that does not leak.</p> <p>12 We want respect. We want a quality education for our 13 children. It does not matter if the school is Pine Crest 14 or Poinciana, Carol City or Doral Middle, Central or Crop. 15 We expect teachers who can teach and have high expectations 16 for every student in their class. We expect that children 17 with special needs and disabilities never to be denied 18 services because of lack of funding. And we expect that 19 all children and youths have access to health care services 20 that are vital to their proper growth and development.</p> <p>21 Our district is configured in a way that has resulted 22 in effective representation to our concerns in Tallahassee 23 as well as Washington. We work together with our 24 legislators. I know that Representatives Wilson, 25 Mindingall, Meek, Holloway and Brutus and Congresswoman DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p> <p>1 I can proudly say that our community is extremely 2 happy and grateful to Congressman Meek as our 3 Representative. She was also able to secure funding for 4 building that house, our Head Start Program, elderly and 5 social service program, and the building looks gorgeous. 6 We consistently see her on C-Span in Congress fighting for 7 issues that impact her clients. But more importantly, all 8 citizens in the nation, persons in this community, know 9 that we have a voice and we will be heard. Let me just say 10 to you that the statistics we serve in Congressional 11 District 7, we have the largest Head Start Program in the 12 southwest with over 5,600 children. We have 1,000 families 13 that we work with job training, job placement, and housing 14 councilmen. 1,268 residents in the district that are 15 seniors that we are providing lunch for.</p> <p>16 And to be honest about it, Carrie Meek has really been 17 the one that really helped us to provide all of these 18 services. She has worked diligently to advocate for the 19 less fortunate. The state of Florida cannot afford to have 20 her district diminished in any capacity. And in 21 conclusion, I recommend that the congressman's district 22 stay intact.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN BYRD: One-hundred-five.</p> <p>24 MS. McMILLON: Good evening. I am Dannie McMillon, a 25 parent, a mother of three young adult male sons and an DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 153</p> <p>1 Meek understand the needs of our children, youth, and their 2 families. We have made progress, yes, but now I urge you 3 to please do not undermine this progress by enacting 4 unnecessary changes to the district lines, but consider the 5 significance of making and providing avenues for 6 improvement throughout this community. Please, I urge, I 7 beg, please do not put partisan politics above the interest 8 of the children and their families in this district. Thank 9 you for your time.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN BYRD: One-hundred-six. One-hundred-six. 11 One-hundred-seven.</p> <p>12 MR. PACE: Good evening. My name is John Pace. I'm a 13 Miami-Dade resident, a law enforcement officer for 25 14 years, a Vietnam veteran and a person that works in the 15 interest of community. I thank you for coming in here and 16 being in my alma mater, Miami Central. Graduated in 1968, 17 now you can tell my age, because wisdom is going to dictate 18 what we accomplish here. And I say "we," because you are a 19 player on my team.</p> <p>20 And I just want to remind you that, don't change it, 21 it works. Don't change it, it works. Don't change it, it 22 works. I say that three times because in school, they told 23 me if I repeat it several times, I might remember that. 24 And I'm here to encourage each of you to remember that we 25 are the coaches and you are on the team. I just want to DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 154</p> <p>1 remind you that some of my team players are up there seated 2 with you. And beginning with my leader, that's Carrie P. 3 Meek, 17th District, and beginning with the other players 4 on the team, let me tell you about the other stars. 5 Because sometimes we forget who they are. 6 And they represent this community in the fashion that 7 it should be. Let's talk about the two Senators, Senator 8 Meek, Senator Daryl Jones, talk about the other players, 9 Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Edward 10 Bullard and Phillip Brutus. They are here to represent us. 11 I want to remind you of something that perhaps -- you 12 have listened to a lot of speakers -- over in District 104, 13 where Frederica Wilson works so diligent and hard, I want 14 to remind you that the number one epidemic here in our 15 community, which is AIDS/HIV, the number one killer, the 16 Representative along with Congresswoman Meek, they made an 17 effort to attack this war on AIDS and bring about a 18 difference in our community. 19 Please do not tamper or dilute this. Remember, to 20 focus on our children, child-oriented people are here and 21 are child focused. And keep these districts, especially 22 104, Mindingall, and all of the other Representatives here 23 intact. But I also want to remind you of something else, 24 Dade County has been plagued with a history of 25 discrimination against minority voters. In the last decade DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 156</p> <p>1 system with greater disparity caused the votes of black 2 voters not to be counted were even higher than the white 3 voters in this county. I would like you to consider all 4 this discrimination and remember, play on the team and we 5 are all Americans and we like to play on the same field. 6 Thank you. 7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: One-hundred-eight. One-hundred-eight. 8 One-hundred-nine. One-hundred-nine. 9 MR. THOMAS: Protocol having already been established, 10 it is widely acknowledged that there was, in fact, an 11 undercount of the nation's population in the 2000 census. 12 Where did that undercount take place in great numbers? In 13 communities where people live who look like me. In August 14 the census monitoring board released a report by one of the 15 counties -- country's largest accounting firms, Price 16 Waterhouse Coopers on the undercount and found out that 17 over 200,000 Floridians were not counted in the 2000 18 census. 19 Miami-Dade County, which is the state's largest 20 county, accounted for 22 percent of that undercount 21 statewide. We know the social ramifications of why 22 somebody would not be counted, the fears and the 23 apprehensions, particularly in minority communities. We 24 also know the fears and apprehensions of folks who would be 25 doing the counting. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 155</p> <p>1 we had voting rights' lawsuits filed by blacks against the 2 County, the fire board, and school board and the city of 3 Miami. And I'm happy to say that we were successful in 4 each case. 5 The last statewide redistricting process ten years ago 6 resulted in blacks being elected to two of our 7 Congressional Districts, one district in Miami-Dade and 8 one, which includes only a portion of Miami-Dade, we saw 9 both Congressional District 117, represented by Carrie P. 10 Meek and District 23 representing by Congressman Alcee 11 Hastings challenged in court. Fortunately, those 12 challenges were not successful. 13 Many in the black community felt victimized by last 14 November's presidential election which large numbers of the 15 black voters were denied the right to vote or their votes 16 were not counted. The recent report by the U.S. Commission 17 on Civil Rights which conducted hearings throughout Florida 18 after the election concluded here in Miami-Dade County 19 concluded that the ballots of black voters were ten times 20 more likely to be rejected than the ballots of non-black 21 voters. And that's 54 percent of all ballots that was 22 disqualified were cast by black voters. 23 Miami-Dade County is currently being sued in Federal 24 District Court in a voting rights suit that was filed by 25 the NAACP. The county used the now-famous punch card DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 157</p> <p>1 I urge you, Mr. Chair, and members of the committee 2 not to ignore the fact that the census undercounted 3 hundreds of thousands of Floridians. You must somehow make 4 and take into account and consider that when you draw the 5 lines for State House, State Senate and Congressional 6 districts. If you do not, you will be building an apparent 7 and illegal packing of our substantial minority population. 8 Do not dilute our vote. You must make adjustments. 9 Now, that I've indicated what the problem is, let me 10 suggest a possible answer. One of the ways that you can 11 address the undercount that we know exists in many 12 neighborhoods here in Miami-Dade is to allow for a smaller 13 deviation in districts in those areas. Establish a 14 criteria that will allow you to factor in those percentages 15 in the districts when you set out to frame the ideal 16 districts. 17 Now, that is the substance of my speech. Let me talk 18 to us as a heart. We cried on September 11th and I'm a 19 veteran, a Vietnam veteran. I have children. I love this 20 community, I know all of the people here. I love each and 21 every one of you. We must rise above being Democrats, 22 Republicans and Independents. We must listen to the call 23 of what must be done to keep this country strong and free. 24 God bless you and give you traveling speed. 25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: One-hundred-ten. One-hundred-eleven. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p> <p>1 MS. JEFFERSON: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and 2 members of the committee, members of our committee, I mean, 3 our community. My name is Gwen Jefferson. I am a working 4 mother, a health care provider and a concerned citizen. I 5 am here today and I'm so glad to be given the opportunity 6 to be heard. I know it is late and you are getting very 7 tired, but I have to take a stand and I thank God it's 8 almost over.</p> <p>9 I am overwhelmed by the unity given by the House, 10 Senate, and Congressional districts, and our elected 11 Representative. Knowing that this state is being 12 controlled by one party in the Legislature and 13 Governorship, we need people right now more than ever to 14 stand up and I understand it's the plight of the black 15 community and the black family. I live a few streets away 16 from this school and it consists of law-abiding, 17 respectable and caring people. We only ask that fairness 18 be given and continue to have our representation. We do 19 not want to change our district to fit someone else's 20 agenda.</p> <p>21 We are concerned about minority issues, education of 22 our children, and we need to bring our school buildings up 23 to the 21st century. This building that we are in right 24 now has areas that was built back in 1950s that have not 25 been brought up to standard. Also, we need money for our DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p> <p>1 They live in our community and they know what we have to go 2 through, that is our family. And I ask you to let our 3 family stay together. They say that a family that stays 4 together prays together. We do pray.</p> <p>5 In summary, the way our district is now has given us 6 the most effective representation that we need to get our 7 concerns and important issues to this table and get them to 8 the ones that can help us. Nothing should be done to 9 change that. Thank you for listening. Thank you for your 10 patience. And may God bless each and every one of you.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN BYRD: One-hundred-twelve. 12 One-hundred-twelve.</p> <p>13 MS. ROLLINS: Good evening, Mr. Chair, members of the 14 committee. My name is Dorothy Rollins. I live at 2200 15 Northwest 131st Street in District 104. I am a member of 16 the Tri-community Home Owner's Association. Florida's 17 history as of late has been very colorful to put it mildly. 18 We have been in the national spotlight for hanging chads, 19 shark attacks and terrorist training. In spite of the 20 aforementioned and other spectaculars, we are citizens who 21 care about and want to participate in this political 22 process that effects us all.</p> <p>23 I understand that the numbers from the last census 24 dictate that the changes be made. But what dictates how 25 the changes are made is what lies in the minds and hearts DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p> <p>1 inner-city schools. We are concerned about our safety. 2 Increasing the numbers of graduates are coming out in the 3 12th grade class each year, being treated fairly when we 4 are faced with the same situation as others, of other 5 colors, are being treated with a double standard.</p> <p>6 I feel and I find that through the attack of America, 7 all others are now starting to know and feel what we have 8 been going through all of our lives. This is no time for 9 us to fall apart now. We have to take a stand. It has 10 brought us to a common ground where we are caring, we are 11 helping each other, and we're standing together. But we 12 don't have to wait for a tragedy like this to occur in 13 order to bring unity.</p> <p>14 The way that our district is now has caused us to have 15 effective representation of our concerns in Tallahassee and 16 Washington, D.C. Our legislator understands the needs of 17 our cities. I always remember, as PTA president at Arcola 18 Lake Elementary School, our Congresswoman, Carrie Meek, 19 when we gave a gift to our senior students, our graduating 20 students, she met us, we gave them a trip to Washington, 21 D.C. and she met us at the stairs of our capitol building. 22 She gave us a tour. She took pictures with us. She said I 23 grew up there, you're like family to me. She made us feel 24 at home.</p> <p>25 I know that Senator Meek as well went to school here. DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 161</p> <p>1 of the U.S. reapportionment and the redistricting committee 2 members. With this in mind, my request is simply this, be 3 fair, be open, be inclusive.</p> <p>4 The past ten years have seen our state grow. We have 5 elected representation from people who have firsthand 6 knowledge of the needs of these populations that comprise 7 the inner cities and urban districts. This representation, 8 I believe, has served to strengthen our community, not only 9 here in Dade County, but throughout the state of Florida.</p> <p>10 Again, please, go about your task but remember, be 11 fair, be open and be inclusive. Thank you. 12 One-hundred-thirteen.</p> <p>13 MR. CURE: First of all, give praise to God from whom 14 all blessings flow. Then to the -- Ms. Frederica Wilson 15 who is doing a marvelous job in our community, standing up 16 for the youth, and exemplifying leadership. Then to 17 Ms. Bendross-Mindingall who I worked with when I was a 18 substitute teacher, she may not remember that. To Senator 19 Kendrick Meek and Senator Daryl Jones, both men who are 20 definitely prominent in our community.</p> <p>21 I hope that you hear resounding from the speeches 22 tonight that the people that we have representing us, they 23 really are family. I myself graduated from Central in 1980 24 and we want to make sure that the people that are a part of 25 our community are here to represent us. One thing that you DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 162</p> <p>1 are going to hear is that although we give accolades for 2 the achievements that they have made, you must understand 3 they are not doing this for reward or personal gain, they 4 are doing this because this community means something to 5 them and that's very important.</p> <p>6 As a resident, home owner, educator, parent and 7 president of the local neighborhood association of this 8 community, I know our districts, our current districts need 9 to stay the same. My concerns are the lack of distribution 10 of services and goods that have plagued us in the past. If 11 this community is redistricted, the progress that we are 12 currently making from our current leadership will decrease, 13 we do not want that to happen.</p> <p>14 What we need is more strong representation from our 15 current leaders, not changing the districts. I trust that 16 you will make the right decision; however, many of our 17 constituents believe that the decision has already been 18 made in favor of other communities. But I would hope that 19 you remember that this is a community united, we will pray 20 that you will make the right decision. And please do not 21 change our districts. Thank you.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN BYRD: One-hundred-fourteen. Members, that 23 concludes the public testimony. At this time, ladies and 24 gentlemen, we normally allow the members of the Legislature 25 to address the audience. And who wants to wax eloquently</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 164</p> <p>1 for this body to do that. Also, the statewide president of 2 NAACP, Adora Obi Nweze, made a very important point, I 3 thought, of making sure that the public has a clear 4 understanding of the criteria for drawing districts so that 5 the proposals that they submit to the Legislature are not 6 dismissed for technical reasons. We need to make sure that 7 that's true. And I know that, Dan, you're working -- 8 Senator Webster is working very hard to make sure that 9 that's true. But we also need to, in some cases, as 10 legislators, we know that some people we take by the hand 11 and help them along in the process. And sometimes we have 12 a tendency to dismiss those who don't know the process and 13 hopefully, we will try to treat them in the former way and 14 not the latter.</p> <p>15 I think we have heard here tonight as well as in 16 nearly, I would assume, in nearly every other hearing that 17 you had across the state, a desire for the people to see 18 what our plan is going to be. And so I don't recall if 19 this is true. I think you said that you are going to look 20 into it, Senator Webster, as to whether or not -- it seemed 21 to me that ten years ago we had three public hearings 22 around the state after we drew our plan before we took our 23 vote. That didn't happen?</p> <p>24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We had one day. 25 SENATOR JONES: We had one day that we did it? Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 163</p> <p>1 tonight? Senator Jones, you are recognized.</p> <p>2 SENATOR JONES: I trust that you all were as impressed 3 as I was with the testimony that we heard tonight. Some 4 outstanding points were made. I would just like to 5 emphasize a couple of those points or reemphasize. 6 Obviously, we have heard a tremendous amount of testimony 7 about making sure that the districts that are drawn are 8 able to elect minorities to those districts. We currently 9 have, as you know, one congressperson who's an 10 African-American here; two Hispanic congresspersons; five 11 African-American House members; two African-American State 12 Senators; and numerous others who are also Hispanics as 13 well.</p> <p>14 But a couple of points that really stuck out with me, 15 one person that was the person that testified, Number 109, 16 said not taking into account the undercount also indicates 17 that we are not treating each person as a full person. And 18 that made me think about the way that the law used to be 19 when African-Americans were considered three-fifths of a 20 person in this country. So, if we fail to take into 21 account the undercount, and one way we can do that is by 22 having a downward deviation.</p> <p>23 We are in essence doing something that was effective 24 much earlier in this nation's history. And I think that 25 will be a difficult thing to do. Hopefully it's not easy</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 165</p> <p>1 I recalled something to that effect. So I think it may be 2 important for us to do something to that effect. And I 3 would like to state, even though we are doing some things 4 different this time as compared to what we did ten years 5 ago -- and, again, of course, I was on the Reapportionment 6 Committee ten years ago as well -- perhaps we could do 7 something a little bit differently and have a more open 8 process so we can provide for some level of public input 9 before the plan to redraw.</p> <p>10 And I don't know if we have much control over this, 11 but perhaps we can make a point of it to Congress and that 12 is during the next decennial census to make sure that 13 Haitian-Americans have a designation as well just like the 14 various categories of Hispanic-Americans do on the census. 15 I think that was a valid point that was made by one of the 16 earlier speakers so I would just like to reemphasize that 17 point as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Senator. Representative 19 Ryan.</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE RYAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 21 speeches that I heard from the residents here this evening 22 were what I believe to be truly speeches from the heart. 23 And it was very enlightening to me to hear so many people 24 that spent a number of hours to wait just to have an 25 opportunity to speak to us for four minutes, I appreciate</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 166</p> <p>1 that.</p> <p>2 You know, we have done a lot of these hearings across</p> <p>3 the state and although we are so much different in</p> <p>4 different areas of the state, in so many ways, we are very</p> <p>5 much alike. And the recurring theme that I've heard is</p> <p>6 empower my community, offer us political empowerment. And</p> <p>7 this process, we do have some protections, thank goodness</p> <p>8 we have the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that does not permit</p> <p>9 any type of retrogression, any type of dilution of minority</p> <p>10 voting strength.</p> <p>11 And we have communities of interest which are very</p> <p>12 important, different communities of interest in different</p> <p>13 areas. And from what I've heard in Miami-Dade County,</p> <p>14 communities of interest are education, schools that need to</p> <p>15 be up to par, we are talking about real employment</p> <p>16 opportunities, housing so important for everybody, health</p> <p>17 needs, accessible and affordable health care. These are</p> <p>18 important community interests that are not so important in</p> <p>19 other neighborhoods, but are extremely important here in</p> <p>20 Miami-Dade County.</p> <p>21 So, if we do not dilute minority voting strength, then</p> <p>22 we can allow for political empowerment here. But minority</p> <p>23 voting strength can be sometimes diluted in very subtle</p> <p>24 ways. And if we have a district with a very high minority</p> <p>25 population and we draw the lines as we must because there</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 168</p> <p>1 to thank everyone who came out tonight to share their</p> <p>2 feelings and concerns with us. I must say, Mr. Chair, one</p> <p>3 of the things that I heard time after time, not only</p> <p>4 communities of interest, but the need for incumbency.</p> <p>5 There is a great hunger in this part of the state as</p> <p>6 relates to representation in the Congress. It took 123</p> <p>7 years to get the representation that we have in</p> <p>8 Congressional Districts 17 and 23, and I believe District</p> <p>9 3, Congresswoman Corrine Brown's district. And being in</p> <p>10 Jacksonville and being here tonight, hearing that first</p> <p>11 throughout the state, people who haven't had the</p> <p>12 opportunity to be represented at the highest levels of</p> <p>13 government, also as it relates to the State Legislature,</p> <p>14 having incumbents and senior members there to push the</p> <p>15 agenda of not only health issues dealing with AIDS and HIV</p> <p>16 and other critical issues to these communities, but also as</p> <p>17 it relates to education, I think it's important that we</p> <p>18 keep that in mind and I'm glad that many of the people</p> <p>19 spoke on the issue.</p> <p>20 Mr. Chairman, I must share and echo what many of my</p> <p>21 colleagues have already said, there was great concern and</p> <p>22 interest that I heard from many of the speakers coming up.</p> <p>23 One said report back before we take action so that they can</p> <p>24 have input. Government in many of the minds, I know of my</p> <p>25 constituents and of the people here in South Florida, is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 167</p> <p>1 are some districts that have 50 or 60,000 more residents</p> <p>2 than they are permitted and some that have 20,000 less than</p> <p>3 they need, if we redraw those districts and pack more and</p> <p>4 more minorities in, then those minority residents in other</p> <p>5 districts do not have an opportunity for political</p> <p>6 empowerment. So let's hope that we do not in these types</p> <p>7 of subtle ways dilute the minority strength and that</p> <p>8 everybody has an opportunity to speak in their government.</p> <p>9 Thank you.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Representative Ryan.</p> <p>11 Representative Holloway.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE HOLLOWAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I</p> <p>13 really want to put a resounding thank you to all of our</p> <p>14 constituents who took the time today in getting prepared to</p> <p>15 come out and to express themselves to show just what our</p> <p>16 interests really are and that we need your consideration</p> <p>17 and we need you to come back and show us the new districts.</p> <p>18 That is a reminder to the council that's meeting here to</p> <p>19 take some time to come back with us and our residents will</p> <p>20 be here to hear just what we decided to do. So, thank you,</p> <p>21 residents and constituents, for coming out. And thank you,</p> <p>22 committee, for coming down and sharing with us.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Representative. Senator</p> <p>24 Meek.</p> <p>25 SENATOR MEEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I just want</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 169</p> <p>1 not necessarily something that cannot be trusted or</p> <p>2 something that you can't trust all the way through the</p> <p>3 process. So I would urge very strongly, if we can, since</p> <p>4 we don't know what the criteria is going to be, once the</p> <p>5 Town Hall meetings come to a completion, we don't know that</p> <p>6 we are going to pass a bill through committee or even start</p> <p>7 discussing a bill, that we really look very hard in</p> <p>8 allowing these individuals to be able to look at maps, not</p> <p>9 on-line, but in person. And hopefully be able to have a</p> <p>10 dialogue with the members of the committee since we</p> <p>11 couldn't ask questions of the individuals and we couldn't</p> <p>12 answer questions if they had questions, knowing what the</p> <p>13 criteria was tonight. I think that's something for us to</p> <p>14 be mindful of.</p> <p>15 I can't help but reflect back on the comments of my</p> <p>16 Chairman in the Senate, Senator Webster, who said, We want</p> <p>17 to make sure that this process is open, more open than it</p> <p>18 was in 1992, that it becomes more open this time. Due to</p> <p>19 the fact of the information superhighway and many other</p> <p>20 points of information dissemination that we can use that we</p> <p>21 didn't have 10 years ago, that has been available for many</p> <p>22 of these blue-color workers that came before us tonight,</p> <p>23 they don't have a computer. And the only way they will be</p> <p>24 able to get to a computer is in a public library that has</p> <p>25 it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 170</p> <p>1 But let's get these requirements and lay the rules and 2 make sure that the rules apply to everyone. And once 3 again, Mr. Chairman, I look forward and also, I would 4 appreciate at the conclusion of the comments for those that 5 weren't able to come tonight if you would give the address 6 and time that you'll be at FIU tomorrow if they want to 7 share issues and concerns. But I want to thank the members 8 who did come tonight and we appreciate you being here. 9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Senator. Representative 10 Bendross-Mindingall. 11 REPRESENTATIVE BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Thank you, 12 Mr. Chair, and good evening to everyone. I want to thank 13 the residents of District 109 in particular, and Miami-Dade 14 County in whole for coming out tonight. I want you to know 15 that you have played a very important role in a very 16 important process, redistricting. 17 This gives us an opportunity to hear directly input 18 from the citizenry of Florida. As policymakers we get to 19 hear from different constituency groups on how they can 20 best be represented. This evening we've heard a lot about 21 compactness, continuity, contiguity, and communities of 22 interest. I believe that all of these principles should be 23 simply themes of redrawing of district lines. 24 Communities of interest should play a special role in 25 our considerations. I must digress for a moment to say DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 172</p> <p>1 need to return to Miami-Dade County because I'm sure that 2 you don't want this auditorium full of people coming up to 3 Tallahassee to the committee meeting. So come back to Dade 4 County and let us look at the maps. Let us examine them. 5 And I'm sure that you will do us proud. 6 I am so proud tonight, I cannot even begin to express 7 my pride in my community, the way that you came out here 8 tonight. Give yourself a great big hand. 9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Representative. Is there 10 further discussion, members? The meeting is adjourned. 11 (Meeting concluded.) 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 171</p> <p>1 that I'm a member of five generations of individuals who 2 have lived in Florida, and in particular, District 109. 3 So, this carries a great important role in my heart and in 4 my life. We want you to know that we are going to do our 5 very best for you. You were eloquent in your 6 presentations. We are here to serve you, we are here to 7 represent you. We want you to know that we feel that the 8 newly drawn lines should also represent you. We heard you 9 loudly, we are here to serve. We work for you. Continue 10 to let us know what you need of us and we will be there to 11 make sure that it happens. Thank you again for coming out 12 and may God bless you all. 13 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Representative. Other 14 members? Representative Wilson. 15 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: Thank you so much, Mr. Chair. 16 I just want to thank the principal of Miami Central Senior 17 High School and the administrative staff. I am sure that 18 they did not expect this overflowing crowd. I am so proud 19 this evening, so very proud of all of you for coming out in 20 record numbers. In fact, one of the registrants asked me, 21 What did you all do, send out personal invitations to 22 everyone in Dade County? 23 Thank you so much for coming. We listened, we heard 24 you. The recurring theme was, Please return. If you don't 25 return anywhere else, just with this overflowing crowd, you DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 173</p> <p>1 CERTIFICATE 2 3 STATE OF FLORIDA: 4 5 COUNTY OF LEON: 6 7 I, MONA L. WHIDDON, Court Reporter, certify that I 8 was authorized to and did stenographically report the 9 foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and 10 complete record of my stenographic notes. 11 DATED this _____ day of _____, 2001. 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 MONA L. WHIDDON Court Reporter Division of Administrative Hearings 1230 Apalachee Parkway Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060 (850) 488-9675 Suncom 278-9675 Fax Filing (850) 921-8453 www.doah.state.fl.us DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (850) 488-9675</p>